TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE;

FROM THE UNION,

TO THE DEATH OF THAT PRINCESS.

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TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE;

FROM THE UNION,

TO THE DEATH OF THAT PRINCESS.

BY

CHARLES HAMILTON, Esq;

Le Siecle de la Verité et de la Juſtice eſt enfin arrivé.

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TO HIS GRACE

DOUGLAS

DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON, &c. &c. &c.

THE Moſt Noble and Illuſtrious Repreſentative of an extenſive and uninterrupted line of glorious Anceſtors, no leſs renowned for their ſuperior proweſs, than eminently diſtinguiſhed by their loyalty, their fortitude, and patriotiſm;

THIS

THIS genuine Narrative of ſtriking and intereſting Events, is with all humility dedicated, both as a teſtimony of the moſt reſpectful, affectionate, and fervid zeal of

THE AUTHOR;

And as a juſt tribute long due to the cheriſhed and unfading memory of their truly great and patriotic common Anceſtor JAMES the fourth Duke of Hamilton and firſt of Brandon.

PRE-

PREFACE.

NO period in the Britiſh hiſtory preſents to the eye of the Reader ſuch a picture of corruption, venality, unconſtitutional influence, court-intrigue, unbounded ambition in favourites, and of extenſive abuſe of popularity and power, as does the weak, though ſplendid reign of Queen Anne. It is throughout, in a great meaſure, a ſcene of artifice and deluſion. The Sovereign, full of timidity, biaſſed by an attachment to her own family, which creates in her breaſt perpetual fear and uneaſineſs, unadviſedly throws herſelf into the arms of a crafty and ambitious pair, who, by degrees, gain ſo abſolute an aſcendant over her mind, that, at firſt, they lead her as they happen to be inclined, and, in the end, hold her in the moſt ſervile dependence.

THE

THE nation, dazzled by vain and unprofitable victories, to gratify the inſatiable avarice of an individual, ſuffers herſelf to be drained of blood and treaſures, without deriving any ſolid advantages, or reaping any other fruits from her ſignal ſucceſſes, but the empty ſatisfaction of having conquered for other powers. Either the ſecret ſprings, which at that time ſet in motion the unwieldy machine of Government, have not been well underſtood by former writers, or they, with-held by temporiſing conſiderations, have refrained from diſcloſing their myſterious operation. Happily reſcued from vain terrors, the hiſtorian finds himſelf no longer cramped in his inveſtigations; his pen is left at liberty to beſtow praiſes or paſs cenſures on men and meaſures, as ſtrict juſtice may require.

UNDER ſuch auſpicious circumſtances, and while the ſceptre of theſe realms is mildly ſwayed by another TITUS; whoſe days

days are numbered by acts of clemency and beneficence; whoſe love of juſtice and paternal affection for his people, are as conſpicuous, as his exemplary private virtues; I may, without dread, unravel plots and diſcover intrigues, which have hitherto either been palliated, or have totally remained concealed from the public eye. I feel myſelf not only encouraged to the undertaking, by the liberality of ſentiment which characteriſes this great nation; but irreſiſtibly impelled to it, by the deſire of vindicating, from unjuſt aſperſions and groſs miſrepreſentations, the conduct of a great Progenitor, at the time when the Union took place; as well as of avenging, as far as I am able, his cruel and untimely death.

WITH theſe powerful incitements, had Sir John Dalrymple extended his Memoirs to the period which I have preſcribed to myſelf, he might ſo have exploded the occult under-workings of that reign, as

might have precluded me from purſuing this undertaking. As the caſe ſtands, I am free to confeſs that the Preface to his firſt Volume originally ſuggeſted to me the idea of this Work, which the diſcharge of the Duties of a public truſt abroad has hitherto delayed. That Gentleman obſerves, "There are ſome family-memoirs in Lon-"don of great authority, which I wiſhed "much to have ſeen; but it required a "train of ſolicitation to get acceſs to "them, to which no man of common "pride could ſubmit."

THAT the authenticity of my materials may not be queſtioned, I am reluctantly forced to point out the ſource from which they were drawn, and to give ſome account of my Father, by whom they were bequeathed. He was Son of James Earl of Arran, afterwards Duke of Hamilton, and of Lady Barbara, third Daughter of Charles II. by the Ducheſs of Cleveland, who gave him

him birth at Cleveland Houſe in March 1691, during that Lord's confinement in the Tower. The Queen * and the Duke of Hamilton, incenſed at the diſcovery of this connection, made the retreat of Lady Barbara to the Continent, the principal condition of Lord Arran's releaſe from impriſonment, and from an impending proſecution. This Lady accordingly withdrew to the Nunnery of Pontoiſe, where ſhe pined away and died. My Father having been reared up at Chiſwick by the Ducheſs of Cleveland, was, by Lord Arran, on his becoming Duke of Hamilton, and marrying the Honourable Miſs Eliſabeth Gerard, ſent over to France, where the care of his perſon and education was intruſted to the Earl of Middleton, at that time Secretary of State to James II.

BROUGHT up in that Miniſter's family,

* Queen Mary, on whom, during the abſence of the King, the executive government had devolved.

admitted to an unlimited ſhare of his confidence, privy to a great part of his correſpondence, he was held in great conſideration at the Court of St Germain, until the fatal cataſtrophe of the Duke of Hamilton in 1712. This cruel circumſtance, followed by a train of other diſappointments, drove him at length to Swiſſerland, where he divided his days between the purſuit of Alchymy and a friendly intercourſe to the laſt, with the late Earl Mariſhal, who, in 1737, promoted an union between him and Antonietta my Mother, a deſcendant from the well known family of Courtenay.

HAVING thus traced out, as briefly as is conſiſtent, the channel through which I obtained the authorities which form the baſis of this work, I proceed to diſcharge my truſt with confidence and fidelity, promiſing to give, as occaſion occurs, ſuch quotations, in ſupport of the facts which I ſhall advance, as ſhall place their authenticity beyond the reach of Sophiſtry.

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ERRATA.

page 35. line 2. *for* Go-ment *read* Government.
49. 5 *for* preferred *read* proffered.
92. 16. *for* mediately *read* immediately.
107. 16. *for* break on *read* break in upon.
111. 1. *for* fides *read* fide.
243. 1. *for* middling *read* meddling.

INTRODUCTION.

State of the two Kingdoms previous to their Union.

Introduction.

BEFORE I enter upon the narrative of thoſe events which, during the remainder of Queen Anne's reign, ſucceeded the Union, it will be proper to caſt a retroſpective glance at thoſe which had preceded it; that thus the connection between them may be traced up to its ſource, and their cauſes and effects clearly underſtood.

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ſtood. Of little avail is dear-bought experience, if it impart not wiſdom; and to very little purpoſe are prominent hiſtorical events recorded, if, like blazing towers, they dart not around them powerful rays, and direct the benighted wanderer on a ſafe courſe. It is evidently the peculiar province of the hiſtorian, in fairly relating facts as they occur, to point out paſt errors, and warn the unwary from the dangerous ſhoals on which others have been ſtranded. Wars are unqueſtionably the ſevereſt ſcourges which can be inflicted on the human race; nor can even thoſe which prove ſucceſsful make any recompence for the miſeries they occaſion. If coinciding circumſtances render them unavoidable, the calamity ſhould manfully be encountered; but wantonly to provoke them, is the height of raſhneſs. William's paſſion for military fame, his ambition to give laws to Europe, joined to his inveteracy againſt the French King, hurried this country into two long and expenſive continental wars; for that waged by the Duke of Marlborough, which negotiations might, if not have averted, at leaſt

leaſt have ſhortened in its duration, was that Prince's laſt legacy. Diviſions among ourſelves, co-operating with thoſe unfruitful, nay, ruinous wars, brought this great nation to the brink of deſtruction. To the ſignal interpoſition of Providence, it ſtands peculiarly indebted for its repeated deliverance from the moſt imminent dangers. To its wiſe form of government, to its own courage, induſtry, and perſeverance, is ultimately to be aſcribed its preſent proſperous ſituation, which I devoutly wiſh may long endure! Introduction.

A glorious revolution had been atchieved in our political ſyſtem, by the means of which, the conſtitution had at length acquired that degree of vigour and ſtability, after which it had long panted; but which, till that time, it had ſtruggled in vain to poſſeſs permanently. The rights of the people had in that revolution been preciſely aſcertained, and the prerogative of the Prince had been equitably defined and wiſely circumſcribed. Both the governor and the governed had been reſpectively Revolution.

Introduction.

taught to bow in obedience to laws which ſecured the juſt authority of the one, while they protected the liberties and immunities of the other. The fulneſs of the bleſſings thus imparted, was not however to be taſted, while deſolating wars abroad, jarring intereſts of powerful contending parties at home, inteſtine ferments and perpetual apprehenſions from without, kept the nation in conſtant alarms, and frequently turned its own ſtrength againſt itſelf. It was reſerved for the mild and virtuous reign of George III. to ſee the period of our diſſentions, and a great united people arrive at a pitch of proſperity which ſtrikes the reſt of the world with admiration, animating it to graſp at liberty.

Unſettled ſtate of men's minds.

No ſooner had the crown been placed on William's head, than it had nearly been torn from it, by the very hands which had preſented it *. The natural ſternneſs of that Prince's temper, his diſtance, and reſerve, ill accorded with the open character of the

* Reresby's Memoirs.

Engliſh.

Introduction.

Engliſh. His partiality to foreigners, and his predilection for Holland, had very early diſguſted the heads of a party, to whom he owed his elevation, and whoſe expectations he had diſappointed. Had James been political enough to have kept aloof from his prieſts, and have ſhewn ſome diſpoſition for conforming outwardly to the religion of his ſubjects, he would probably have reaſcended a throne, from which he had been precipitated by his bigotry and infatuation.

James's proſpects of reſtoration.

Sentiments of his adherents.

WITH many virtuous citizens, who remained conſcientiouſly attached to his perſon, and firm in their allegiance, it was a queſtion, whether the conſtitution might not have acquired a greater degree of energy, and the power of the Crown have been more efficaciouſly limited, by its having been continued on James's head, than by its having been transferred to that of a ſtranger, however meritorious in the eyes of the nation; who, by this violence to old eſtabliſhed principles, was involving herſelf in endleſs domeſtic broils, and plunging into

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into a ſeries of continental quarrels, which threatened her very exiſtence? The adherents to the cauſe of the dethroned King had other ſtrong and weighty motives to urge, in apology for their attachment to that Prince's perſon.

His public

He poſſeſſed many public and private virtues; he had approved himſelf zealouſly ſolicitous for the honour and proſperity of his country; he had neglected no means for encouraging and extending her commerce; he had ſupported and increaſed her navy, her great and natural bulwark; he was beloved by her brave ſeamen, in whoſe toils and dangers he had ſhared, at the head of whom he had conquered, and of whom he gloried to be called *the Friend;* he profeſſed an affectionate regard for his ſubjects, and proteſted, that he had diſbanded his army, and removed his perſon, more to avoid ſhedding the blood of his people, and to avert the horrors of a civil war, than with a view of ſkreening himſelf from the outrages, which the conduct of his ſon-in-law, towards him, had given him cauſe to apprehend.

Introduc. tion.

and private character.

apprehend. In his private character, he was an indulgent parent, a tender huſband, a generous and ſteady friend, a religious obſerver of his word, a lover of truth; and he poſſeſſed both bravery and magnanimity.

CONCLUDING from theſe premiſes, it will no longer appear ſurpriſing, that ſo conſiderable a part of the landed intereſt had eſpouſed the cauſe of that Prince, as were known by the appellation of Jacobites. In Scotland, they were blended with the country-party, and formed a majority of the people. The levity and unnatural demeanor of Mary, William's conſort, at her arrival in England, had diſpleaſed even thoſe who had voted her on the Throne. Anne, Princeſs of Denmark, her ſiſter, to her laſt hour, repented her having deſerted her father, a ſtep into which ſhe had been hurried by the undue influence of Lady Churchill. She had craved forgiveneſs for that offence, with humility and contrition, and had promiſed to make, for it, every atonement in her power.

ONE

Introduction.

ONE of the firſt ſteps of William, after having in vain attempted to obtain a repeal of the ſacramental teſt, and the permanent eſtabliſhment of a revenue, had been to declare war againſt France; while almoſt the whole of his dignified and other clergy, many of the peers, and a great number of commoners, perſiſted to refuſe taking the oaths to his government; while the late King held poſſeſſion of Ireland; and an hoſtile army, under Lord Dundee, an able and enterpriſing general, overawed Scotland. His greatneſs of mind, contemning difficulties, had ſupplied him with reſources in this emergency. Confiding in the innate antipathy of the Engliſh againſt France, and in their proneneſs to war, he diſſolved a parliament which had beſtowed the crown, and ſummoned another to enable him to wear it. Having by this means procured the ſettlement of a revenue on his and the Queen's life in reverſion, he raiſed money in the city by a mortgage on it; and thus laid the foundation of a public debt. All was to be hazarded to league England againſt France. The States-General demanded

Declaration of war againſt France.

Diſſolution of parliament.

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ed this at his hands; they were at all events to be gratified. He next reſolved to repair to Ireland, at the head of an army chiefly compoſed of foreigners, deeming it unſafe, with the Engliſh ſoldiery alone, to encounter an opponent who had ſo lately been their ſovereign.

The King repairs to Ireland.

SCARCE had he ſailed, when a conſpiracy, moſt alarming in its extent, had been diſcovered againſt his government. It had for object the reſtoration of James during the abſence of his rival. France, with a powerful fleet, had engaged, by an invaſion, to aſſiſt inſurrections planned in different parts of England, while a body of Iriſh troops landing in Scotland, were to form a junction with levies to be made in that country. The conſternation which the unravelling of this plot had occaſioned, was ſtill much heightened by the number and conſequence of the perſons of rank arreſted and thrown into the tower.

First Conſpiracy.

MEANWHILE, a formidable fleet of French men of war appeared in the Chan-

Battle off Beachy-head.

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nel, defeated, and drove to the mouth of the Thames, the united fleets of England and Holland. They retired to that river in a ſhattered condition, in order to cover a capital filled with terror and deſpondence, in which the reins of government looſely floated in the hands of a woman, diſtracted with apprehenſions.

Battle of Boyne.

THE panic and diſmay pervading all ranks was, however, ſoon after diſpelled by the intelligence received, of the victory gained by William over James's army, near the river Boyne, of that Prince's return to France, of the ſurrender of ſeveral ſtrong places to the conqueror, and of his triumphant entry into Dublin. But, baffled at laſt before Limerick, the King left the command of his army to a Dutch General, and the devoted Iriſh expoſed to all the horrors and miſeries which could be accumulated, during a long and ſevere winter, by the wanton barbarity of mercileſs mercenaries, who, regardleſs of age or ſex, indiſcriminately butchered and plundered the wretched inhabitants.

IN-

Introduction.

The King's journey to Holland, & entry at the Hague.

INATTENTIVE to the wailings of ſo large a portion of his ſuffering ſubjects, William having obtained the moſt bountiful ſupplies from the Engliſh parliament, haſtened to reviſit Holland, in order to preſide at the Congreſs. At the head of a croud of Engliſh nobility, he diſplayed, in a ſplendid entry at the Hague, the pomp of a victorious monarch. But while he was taking meaſures with the confederates to humble the French King, another aſſociation, of perſons of the firſt rank and influence, was forming in England, to deprive him of his regal dignity. The accidental diſcovery and ſeizure of their emiſſaries, for the time, diſconcerted their plan, and forced them to poſtpone its execution.

Second Conſpiracy.

Maſſacre of the clan of Glenco.

MURMURS and diſcontents might have ſubſided, had not an univerſal indignation again been raiſed, by the inhuman maſſacre of the clan of Glenco; a deed which ſtamped an indelible diſgrace on the King's government! In obedience to a bloody mandate, not only ſigned, but alſo counterſigned by William himſelf, thirty-eight perſons, in

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the dead of night, were barbarouſly and deliberately murdered. A great many more, who, favoured by a tempeſtuous night, had eſcaped from the ſlaughter, were left to periſh amid the frozen ſnow, in want of food or ſhelter. Neither the lamentations of the aged or infirm, or the cries of the women and children, availed to move the obdurate breaſts of their ſavage executioners. Unſated with their blood, they ravaged and ſet fire to their habitations, drove away their cattle, and divided among themſelves the ſpoil of their victims.

Third Conſpiracy.

To ſuch a height had diſſatisfactions ariſen among the nation, that plot ſucceeded plot for dethroning William and reſtoring James. In the beginning of the year 1692, an æra for ever memorable, a more powerful combination than any that had yet been formed, threatened his authority. It had the Princeſs of Denmark at its head; it extended to the miniſters of State; in it were included the commanders of the fleet and army, whoſe reſpective forces waited but the ſignal of revolt. Whigs as well as Tories united

united in the design. A numerous French fleet, transporting an army, and escorting the dethroned King, was to have co-operated, with a general insurrection in the three kingdoms. James's own secretary of state had in person visited England, and had adjusted the terms of his restoration, with the principal persons concerned.

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DIFFICULTIES that would have dismayed any other prince, only served to display the fertile genius and undaunted courage of William. On every side surrounded with foes, uncertain in whom to trust, relying on himself alone, he calmly issued his different orders, for not only repelling the impending invasion, but for keeping his dissatisfied subjects in awe throughout his dominions. He formed camps, collected his scattered squadrons, equipped the ships in his harbours fit for service, joined to them the navies of Holland, and entrusted the command of the whole to that very admiral, *Russel*, whom he knew to be disloyal to his person; but in whose abilities, bravery, and honour, as an

Spirited measures taken by William.

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an officer, he ſecurely could confide. He did not treat thus Lord Marlborough: he ſent him to the Tower; there was no placing truſt in perfidy. The Princeſs of Denmark having refuſed to diſmiſs her inſidious directreſs, Lady Marlborough, was deprived of her guards.

Battle off Cape La Hogue.

At length the ſignal overthrow of the French off Cape la Hogue, by the combined fleets of England and Holland, the deſtruction of their ſhips, during the combat and on ſhore, finally relieved William's anxious mind, diſappointed his enemies, ſilenced the complaints againſt his government, and ſeated him more firmly on his throne. Yet, ſplendid as this great naval victory had proved, the nation derived very little advantage from it. Its trade remained as much expoſed to the depredations of the enemy's privateers and ſmall ſhips of war, as it had been before. For, this important ſervice performed, the King ordered the fleet to tranſport the troops into Flanders, and purſued his favourite land war.

His

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The King's miſcarriages in Flanders.

His enterpriſes during that campaign met not with the ſucceſs which had crowned his arms by ſea: he was foiled in all his attempts; he had the mortification to ſee Namur taken, without having been able to afford it any relief. He loſt the battle of Steinkirk, wherein his brave Engliſh troops, unſupported by their own General, *Count Solmes*, in deſpite of their own incredible prodigies of valour, had been ſuffered to be cut in pieces. This circumſtance ſo awakened the animoſity of the people, that it prompted the Peers, at the opening of parliament, inſtead of the uſual thanks returned to the ſpeech from the throne, to enter upon a conſideration of grievances, and afterwards to preſent an addreſs of advice, in which they deſired *, "That the commander "of the Engliſh abroad, next to his Maje- "ſty, ſhould be a native of his dominions: "That the Engliſh officers ſhould com- "mand officers of equal rank in the con- "federate army, without regard to the date "of commiſſions: That 20,000 Engliſh

* Journals.

"ſoldiers

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"ſoldiers ſhould remain in England, to be "commanded by one of the King's ſub-"jects; and that no ſeat at the Board of "Ordnance ſhould be beſtowed upon a "foreigner." The Commons, in their reſolution for a ſimilar addreſs, added, "That the vacancies for general officers "ſhould only be filled up with natives of "the King's dominions." Had William complied with all thoſe requiſitions, James would have been recalled by parliament. But he was too penetrating not to ſee the drift of this addreſs. The next blow aimed at him in the Houſe of Lords, was an attempt to ſtop the wheels of his government, by obſtructing the ſupplies; which having at length been voted, he prorogued his parliament and returned to Holland.

Deſign of Parliament to recall James.

Loſs of the Smyrna fleet.

WHILE the King purſued his continental war, with as little ſucceſs as before, freſh calamities awaited his Engliſh ſubjects. The Smyrna fleet was diſperſed, one hundred merchantmen were taken or deſtroyed, with ſix Engliſh and Dutch ſhips of war. An expedition againſt Martinico had failed, and returned

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returned to England in a miſerable plight. An Admiral in his own ſhip, with ſeveral others of his fleet, and the greateſt part of his convoy, periſhed in the Streights.

Changes in the departments of the State.

NOTWITHSTANDING theſe diſaſters, the King, by a judicious change in the different departments of Government, reconciled himſelf with his Parliament, and prevailed upon them to grant him ſupplies ſuited to the great exigencies of the State. A ſucceeding diſtribution of honours among his nobles, ſtrengthened his party, and appeaſed the moſt clamorous. At this period, he might have ſtopped the effuſion of human blood, and might have terminated the calamities of his ſubjects, both advantageouſly and honourably. The French King, threatened with a famine in his dominions, made a demand of peace, through the mediation of the court of Denmark, accompanied with a liberal offer, to reſtore all the conqueſts which he had made during the war. But William, fluſhed with the ſucceſs which had attended him with his Parliament, refuſed to lend an ear to thoſe

Peace refuſed.

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overtures; becauſe they contained no formal acknowledgement of his title to the Engliſh crown: Thus, to an empty ſound, a mere punctilio, ſacrificing the eaſe and proſperity of his people, as well as the repoſe of Europe.

Dieppe, Havre de Grace, and Calais bombarded.

THE war thus protracted, was, in the next year, conducted in a manner better adapted to the genius, and more conducive to the advantages of a great maritime nation. William had planned the deſtruction of Breſt and its arſenal; but the deſign having been betrayed by ſome of his faithleſs ſervants *, it miſcarried. Still his fleets bombarded Dieppe, Havre de Grace, and Calais, and after ſcouring both the ocean and Mediterranean, blockaded the French fleet in Toulon. For that ſhort ſpace, the trade of England ceaſed to be annoyed.

THE next Parliament, in conſequence, li-

* Principally by Lord Marlborough. *Vide* his Letter on the ſubject to James II. in vol. 2. of Sir John Dalrymple's Memoirs, p. 44.

berally

berally granted the ſupplies. They inſtituted inquiries into the different ſpecies of corruption pervading the various departments of the State While they were inflicting exemplary puniſhments on the delinquents, the Queen, whoſe health had been declining apace, expired at Hampton-court. As that Princeſs had only poſſeſſed a nominal portion of regal authority, her death, which had been foreſeen, cauſed not any material alteration in the ſyſtem of affairs.

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The Queen's death.

In the following year, naval operations having been leſs attended to, the enemy ſtole out of Toulon. Depredations upon the Engliſh trade were renewed. The capture of five rich Eaſt-India ſhips, and of a loaded fleet from Barbadoes, more than counterbalanced the retaking of Namur. Large as the ſupplies were, which a new Parliament voted, they ſtill proved very ſhort of the wants of Government.

Captures of the Engliſh trade.

The diſcovery of another meditated invaſion from France, attended, as others had been, with inſurrections at home, ſpread a

Fourth conſpiracy.

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general alarm; to which great indignation mixed itſelf, on the detection of a conſpiracy formed, by ſome fanatical zealots, againſt the King's life. This circumſtance afforded William a moſt pleaſing triumph. His generous people zealouſly aſſociated for the protection and defence of his perſon.

Peace of Ryſwick.

In 1696, the different belligerent powers, exhauſted by their extraordinary exertions, reſpectively appeared deſirous to breathe. Large armies, as with common conſent, remained inactive, entrenched behind their lines, or fortified within their camps. The French King having ſeized this opportunity to renew his overtures for peace, they were liſtened to by all the confederates except the Emperor, who endeavoured to prolong a war to which he contributed the leaſt, and from which he had a proſpect of benefiting the moſt. He was, however, forced to accede to the treaty ſoon after concluded at Ryſwick. Thus ended a war, during which the nation had loſt *many capital ſhips*, with *four thouſand merchantmen*; in which ſhe had expended upwards of *ſixty millions Sterling*, and

and ſacrificed the lives of at leaſt *one hundred thouſand ſeamen and ſoldiers.* Melancholy as this reviſion ſeems, it will ſtill prove more grating, on its being remarked, that not the moſt diſtant advantage accrued to England from the obſtinate and ſanguinary conteſt. William, it is true, had been perſonally much gratified, and then his title to the Engliſh crown was in that treaty moſt unequivocally acknowledged. Introduction.

THE Parliament, to which the treaty of peace was communicated, together with the King's wiſh to keep on foot a land-force, ſo far from acquieſcing in his deſire, came to a reſolution of diſbanding all the forces raiſed ſince the year 1680. Loth to comply with a meaſure ſo extremely repugnant to his inclination, William diſſolved them, and retained his troops, in hopes that another Parliament would be more indulgent. The reverſe however happened; for the firſt ſtep taken by the new Houſe of Commons, after their meeting, was to paſs a vote for diſbanding all the troops in England except Parliament diſſolved.

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cept 7000 *, and all thoſe in Ireland except 12,000, to which they tacked the unpalatable reſolve, "that the troops which ſhould remain, ſhould conſiſt, both officers and men, of natural-born ſubjects." A ſecond ſeſſion of that Parliament further tended to irritate the King, who, after brooding ſome time over his reſentment, at laſt diſſolved it.

Parliament diſſolved a ſecond time.

THE new Parliament did not at firſt ſhew more inclination to pleaſe the King, who was anxiouſly bent upon undertaking another war. The death of the King of Spain, and the ſucceſſion of the grandſon of Lewis to his monarchy, furniſhed the plauſible pretence. Stratagems were accordingly employed to rouſe the Parliament to a ſenſe of the danger awaiting the nation, from the ſuppoſed encroachments of France upon its neighbours. By theſe means a vote was extorted from them, aſſuring the King, "that they would aſſiſt his Majeſty to ſupport his allies in maintaining the liberties of

* Journals.

"Europe.

"Europe *." Thus ſecure of ſupplies, William embarked for Holland to concert plans of future campaigns. In a body emaciated with an aſthma, and other complicated diſorders, his martial ſoul ſtill panted after war. Introduction.

It, however, imported extremely to unite the two kingdoms, before he could ſafely proſecute abroad his hoſtile ſchemes. That object, therefore, equally occupied his thoughts. The ungenerous treatment which his Scottiſh ſubjects had experienced *at his hands*, in their eſtabliſhment at Darien, had ſowered their minds. The low jealouſies of trade entertained, both by the Engliſh and the Dutch, to the laſt of whom a partial regard had ever been paid, had finally accompliſhed the downfall of that promiſing ſettlement. The particular unbecoming conduct of the Engliſh, on that occaſion; the indignities offered to the unfortunate coloniſts, by their fellow-ſubjects, had revived ancient animoſities, which had been The Union in contemplation.

* Journals of Parliament.

on

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on the point of rekindling civil wars between Scotland and England. To allay the threatening ferment, and reconcile theſe diviſions, the King had two years before earneſtly recommended to his Parliament, the conſideration of an union between the two kingdoms. He now ſeriouſly applied himſelf to bring about ſo deſirable an event.

Parliament a third time diſſolved.

At his return from Holland, William eagerly ſeized the opportunity of a clamour raiſed in his kingdoms, againſt the French King, to rid himſelf of his refractory Parliament. He at laſt obtained one, which entered with alacrity into all his hoſtile views. The alliances which he had contracted, were ſanctioned with their full approbation. Supplies the moſt ample were not only chearfully granted, for 40,000 land-forces, and as many ſeamen, but they were accompanied with a moſt gratifying addreſs from both Houſes of Parliament, beſeeching him, "not to make peace with France "until ample reparation had been made to "him and the nation *."

* Journals.

At

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Death of William III.

At length, in the midſt of projects for extinguiſhing, by an union, the torch of civil diſcord fiercely raging between England and Scotland; and for ſpreading wide in Europe the flames of another war againſt his old antagoniſt; William III. waſted with cares and infirmities, was ſnatched off, by the fatal effects of an accidental fall from his horſe, in the commencement of the year 1702. This buſy reign cloſed with the iſſuing a commiſſion to give the royal aſſent to a bill attainting the ſon of James II.; whoſe indelible offence conſiſted in having been, on the death of his father, proclaimed, in his twelfth year, at St Germain, by the followers of his fortunes, under the impolitical ſanction of Lewis XIV.

Acceſſion of Queen Anne.

ANNE Princeſs of Denmark, the eldeſt ſurviving ſiſter of the attainted Prince, for whom ſhe profeſſed a predilective affection, peaceably aſcended the throne, amidſt the uſual acclamations of the people, in conſequence of the act of ſettlement paſſed in 1689. Blindly complying with the direc-

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tions of the Earl of Marlborough, under whoſe guidance ſhe had long been accuſtomed to act, the Queen, in her firſt ſpeech to her Parliament, ſhewed herſelf diſpoſed to adhere to the alliances of her predeceſſor, and inclined, conjunctly with the allies, to wage war againſt France; "whoſe "exorbitant power, ſhe expreſſed, ought to "be reduced within narrower bounds *." She alſo, in the ſame ſpeech, purſued the meſſage ſent to his Parliament by William when on his death-bed, and recommended the conſideration of an union with Scotland, as ſalutary to both kingdoms.

Uncommon influence of the Earl of Marlborough.

THE popularity gained by this early compliance with the predominating temper of the nation, was prodigiouſly increaſed by an appropriation to the public ſervice of the year, of a portion of the revenue ſettled upon her Majeſty; which, added to the extenſive ſupplies already voted to the late King, amply provided the means for a vigorous campaign. No pains were, how-

* The Queen's firſt Speech to her Parliament.

ever,

ever, taken to veil the extraordinary degree of influence poſſeſſed by the Earl of Marlborough. Within the firſt week of this reign, he received the Garter: Although he never had before been at the head of more than 3000 men, yet was he appointed Captain-General of the forces to be employed by England on the continent: He was next diſpatched over to Holland, as Ambaſſador Extraordinary to the States; who, out of compliment to the Queen, conferred upon him the chief command of their own troops. Introduction.

AFTER ſettling there the plan of operations for the approaching campaign, this Lord, at his return to England, newly modelled the cabinet council. He removed every member whom he deemed obnoxious to his ambitious views. He placed Lord Godolphin, his connection, at the head of the Treaſury, and promoted the Marquis of Normanbey to the Privy Seal. Ably ſeconded by his Counteſs, who cloſely watched every motion of the Queen, and ruled her timid mind with abſolute ſway; ſecure in the implicit obedience of the Lord Changes in adminiſtration.

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Treaſurer, as well as in the ſubſerviency of the Lord Privy Seal, the Preſident, and moſt members of the Privy Council, Marlborough may with propriety be conſidered to have been in poſſeſſion of her Majeſty's perſon, of the Treaſury, of the Council, and of the army, of which laſt he held the command.

War declared.

THE extent of this combined and irreſiſtible power was very early and ſenſibly felt. For the Earl of Rocheſter, the Queen's maternal uncle, animated by a ſincere deſire to guard againſt the miſchiefs done to the trade during the laſt war; ſtrongly urged in council the expediency of the nation's chief exertions being directed towards the ſea. After having pointed out the impolicy of ſending a large army into the Netherlands, inſtead of attending to naval operations againſt the enemy's ſettlements, where they were moſt *vulnerable*, he propoſed that the nation ſhould only furniſh her quota of troops, as an auxiliary, leaving the chief burden of the war on the allies, for whoſe ſake it was undertaken, and who muſt ultimately reap all its advantages.

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tages. But Marlborough, who was to command the allied army, haughtily ſpurned at this judicious propoſal, cauſed the war to be declared by England, as principal, and called for the moſt vigorous preparations by land, againſt France.

Diſguſt and retreat of Lord Rocheſter.

THE venerable Peer, incenſed at the treatment offered him, and aſtoniſhed at the confidence repoſed by his niece in a man, who had not only wantonly betrayed her father, his friend and benefactor, but who, during the late reign, had given flagrant and repeated proofs of treachery, remonſtrated with the Queen on the dangers to which ſhe ſtood expoſed. He preſſed her earneſtly to throw off ſhackles which left her only the outward trappings of royalty; but unable to prevail on her to emancipate herſelf, he diſdainfully retired from councils, in which his opinion was ſlighted, and his rank inſulted.

Signal victories againſt France.

DURING five campaigns, the arms of the allies had been attended with the moſt brilliant ſucceſſes. At the expence of great effuſion

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fuſion of blood, and of an enormous waſte of treaſure, England had acquired immortal glory. But, as Lord Rocheſter had predicted, all the ſolid advantages obtained had fallen to the ſhare of the allies. The Commander in Chief had availed himſelf of every opportunity offered, to accumulate immenſe wealth, by means too frequently diſhonourable. At the concluſion of the firſt campaign, he had been created an Engliſh Duke, with a large penſion. He had lately been raiſed to the dignity of Prince of Mindelheim by the Emperor. He had, moreover, been remunerated by Parliament with a noble eſtate, on which the moſt magnificent buildings, and the proudeſt monument to his fame, were erecting at the public expence. Well might he therefore have been conſidered, as having attained the ſummit of human ambition. His weight in the councils of the allies, and in thoſe of his own country, was ſupremely preponderant. The French King, broken with the misfortunes of thoſe campaigns, and anxious to exonerate his ſubjects

The French King ſolicits for peace.

jects from the burthens entailed upon them, by the continuance of a war, which endangered his own dominions, humbled himself to sue for peace, even at the hands of Marlborough. He offered terms of pacification which the allies could not but deem highly advantageous. Introduction.

To propitiate this General, Lewis availed himself of the intervention of the Court of St Germain, to whom both Marlborough and Godolphin were daily pouring forth professions of duteous attachment and of entire devotion. To the application from that quarter, the Duke returned the most unequivocal assurances of applying all his exertions to forward a general peace. In order, however, to conciliate the people, who highly resented the late manœuvres of a French emissary in Scotland to foment troubles, he requested that the Prince would previously instruct his adherents in that country not to oppose the Union; lest their intemperate zeal should be ascribed to the French King's secret practices, and his own Interference of the Court of St Germain. Passing of the Union made a condition of peace.

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own efforts to bring about a peace ſhould thereby be fruſtrated *.

TRUE only to his own private intereſt, Marlborough was too fond of the emoluments of war to have entertained any ſerious intention of realiſing his promiſes. Far from evincing an inclination to fulfil them, he, on the other hand, directed Lord Godolphin to forbear preſſing the Union. But when he found that this miniſter, fearing for himſelf, had, by ſtraining every nerve, carried it through; regardleſs of his engagements, he applied the whole weight of his influence in having the war proſecuted, and the French King's offers rejected, upon the futile and ridiculous plea, "That "they were too favourable to be the foun- "dation of laſting tranquillity."

Refuſal of peace, and tergiverſation of Marlborough.

IN the Parliament which had been returned the year before, the Whigs had evident-

* The Duke of Marlborough, in his letter to Lord Middleton of the 2d November 1706, ſays, "Let the Union "paſs, and you may depend upon a peace. For, ſhould that "be violently oppoſed, there will be no perſuading certain "people that France is not at the bottom of it."

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ly gained the aſcendance over the Tories; ſeveral of their party had of courſe been admitted in the adminiſtration, and the meaſures of Government were apparently conducted agreeably to their principles. The Queen, however, was neither the leſs attached to her own family, nor were Marlborough and Godolphin leſs ſtrenuous in their proteſtations of zeal for the excluded branch. No means had been by them both left untried to conciliate diſcontents, feed the hopes, and ſecure the good-will of the different leaders in oppoſition. The treaſurer had even gone the length of promiſing to pay the exiled Queen's jointure. Thus, by deluding one party, and tampering with the other, private ends were to be attained, and particular objects promoted.

Intrigues of Marlborough and Godolphin.

THE two contending parties had united in paſſing a bill for eſtabliſhing an eventual regency, to be compoſed of ſuch perſons as ſhould happen to fill the firſt offices of ſtate, at her Majeſty's demiſe. To pave the way for the Union, the act declaring the Scots aliens, by a certain day, had been

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Progreſs towards an union.

repealed, as well as that relating to the trade and manufactures of Scotland. The Queen, empowered at laſt by the Parliaments of England and Scotland, had appointed commiſſioners out of both nations to treat of an Union.

Commiſſioners meet to ſettle the articles.

In April 1706, thoſe commiſſioners met at the Cock-pit, Whitehall, and in their ſittings to the 23d of July enſuing, they agreed in the articles, of which the principal were: "That the two kingdoms ſhould "be incorporated into one, by the name "of Great Britain: That the whole people "ſhould be repreſented by one Parliament, "in which ſixteen Peers and forty-five Com-"miſſioners, choſen for Scotland, ſhould ſit "and vote: That all the ſubjects of the "united Kingdom ſhould enjoy full free-"dom and intercourſe of trade and navi-"gation, and ſhould participate in all the "other rights, privileges, and advantages "appertaining to the ſubjects of either "kingdom."

State of Scotland.

The political horizon of Scotland did not,

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not, however, wear ſo promiſing an aſpect as that of England. The meaſures of Goment had met, in that country, with a conſtant and uniform oppoſition. Animoſities againſt and jealouſies of the Engliſh had long prevailed among the Scots, which this intended union did not ſeem calculated to allay. The ratification of thoſe articles by their Parliament was therefore little expected. The people were, in general, averſe to a treaty which bereaved them of their favourite independence, and in a manner annihilated them as a nation. The adherents to the excluded family, in whom future hopes centered, and to whoſe pretenſions that meaſure was deemed inimical, were there both numerous and powerful. They had at their head the Duke of Hamilton, a nobleman, whoſe untainted principles had withſtood the perſecutions of the late reign, and every practice of the preſent. Uniting in his perſon the unſhaken loyalty of the Hamiltons with the undaunted bravery of the Douglaſes, he was not to be ſeduced or intimidated. By birthright firſt Prince of the blood-royal of Scot-

Character of the Duke of Hamilton.

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land, and next in ſucceſſion to the Scottiſh throne, after the deſcendants of James VI. his weight in the country was juſtly conſiderable. Twice, during the late reign, he had been thrown into the Tower, on account of his bold adherence to King James, whoſe perſon he would not deſert, although he abetted not his principles; and from whom no ſeverity could force him to withdraw his allegiance. The fidelity which he conſcientiouſly thought to have owed to the father, he had transferred unſpotted to the ſon. He made no ſecret of his attachment to the cauſe of the excluded Prince, or of his correſpondence with him. Although he had ſubmitted to the Queen's government, yet he had hitherto uniformly rejected every tender of employment in adminiſtration. Of determined perſonal courage, of an upright and penetrating underſtanding, he was not to be terrified by dangers, or diverted from his purpoſe by ſpecious pretences. Steady in his political conduct, warm and ſincere in his profeſſions, faithful to his engagements, judicious and clear in his conceptions, manly and perſuaſive

ſuaſive in his expreſſions, in an uncommon degree graceful in his manner; with an aſpect in which native dignity was blended with benevolence; he was endowed by nature with the great requiſites to win the hearts, and rule the contending paſſions of the multitude. Both the country-party and the Jacobites unanimouſly acknowledged as their leader, a nobleman of ſuch rare merit and ſolid talents; and with confidence, they all looked up to him as their natural protector *.

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SUCH was the opponent whom the Queen's miniſtry had to encounter in their projected union. They had before deceived him with ſolemn aſſurances of their Miſtreſs's intention to do juſtice to her brother, which their ſubſequent conduct had belied; they therefore had no reſource left, but to win this very brother, and by flattering him with promiſſes of peace to Lewis, his own and family's protector, as

Miniſtry's intrigues with the court of St Germain.

* For the authenticity of this character, reference is made to the Memoirs of Scotland.

well

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well as by reiterated proteſtations of effectual attention to his intereſts, induce him to further their ſcheme, by inſtructing the Duke of Hamilton not to oppoſe the Union.

THINGS were in this ſtate while the treaty was, ſtep by ſtep, vehemently oppoſed by the patriots of Scotland.

Meeting of the Scotch parliament.

ON the third of October 1706, the Duke of Queenſberry, as her Majeſty's commiſſioner, having opened the Parliament with the uſual ſolemnity, the treaty of Union had been read, and ordered to be printed. The Houſe afterwards adjourned itſelf for ſeven days.

THE publication of the articles, which, till that time, had been but partially known, produced violent commotions among the people, which broke forth in clamours and tumults.

Violent oppoſition in parliament.

THE Houſe having met, after their adjournment, proceeded to take the articles into

into conſideration, and to debate upon each ſeparately. On every queſtion, the oppoſing members found themſelves outvoted by a venal majority. The lures of the miniſter appeared in particular to have taken greater effect on the Peers than on the Commoners, many of the former order having, on this occaſion, ſwerved from their original and avowed principles. Undiſmayed at this defection, the country-party redoubled their fervour, diſplayed uncommon powers of eloquence, and pathetically called on thoſe Peers, "not to ſully the "glory of their anceſtors, by giving up "in a moment that freedom and independ-"ence which had coſt their forefathers ſo "much blood to maintain." Mr Fletcher of Salton, Lord Belhaven, with the Duke of Hamilton, were foremoſt in bold and animated ſpeeches. The latter, in particular, to an aſſertion, "that no better terms "could be obtained from the Engliſh na-"tion," having fiercely replied, "That "the Scots being on the ſame continent "with the Engliſh, they might furniſh "their own commiſſioners with a very de-"ciſive

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"ciſive argument on that ſubject," a profound ſilence had enſued *.

Great ferments among the people.

WHILE the Parliament-Houſe reſounded with virulent debates, the moſt alarming ferments raged without doors. Addreſſes againſt the Union came pouring in from every part. Mobs in the city were guilty of the moſt violent exceſſes, inſulted the unfriendly members, menaced the commiſſioner himſelf, whom they loaded with execrations, and carried their fury almoſt beyond reſtraint. From the interior parts of the kingdom, the people enraged threatened to invade the capital, and tear in pieces their obnoxious repreſentatives, whom they openly charged with betraying their truſts. Nothing, in fine, ſaved Edinburgh from being the theatre of accumulated miſchiefs, but the uncommon rigour of the ſeaſon, and the inclemency of the weather, which had rendered the roads impaſſable. In Glaſgow, the inhabitants flew to arms, drove their magiſtrates from the city, and hung

* Memoirs of Scotland.

up,

up in effigy, the commiſſioners who had been employed to ſettle the articles. Introduction.

THE chieftains who, by the act of ſecurity, had been ſanctioned to train up and diſcipline their clans, made an offer to the Duke of Hamilton, of marching to Edinburgh and diſperſing, (to uſe the Laird of Kerſland's own expreſſions), "a wretched "parliament, who, by ſuffering themſelves "to be purchaſed for betraying the ho-"nour, proſperity, and independence of "their country, had forfeited their right "to determine for their conſtituents."

AT that critical juncture, the Duke of Hamilton received a letter from Lord Middleton, Secretary of State to the court of St Germain, wherein, after acquainting him with the recent engagements which his maſter had juſt taken with the Queen's miniſters, in order to procure a peace to the French King, to whom he ſtood ſo much indebted; he proceeds with telling him, that "he beſeeched his Grace, "in the behalf of his Maſter, *to forbear gi-* Lord Middleton's letter to the Duke of Hamilton.

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" *ving any further oppoſition to the Union*, as " he had extremely at heart to give to his " ſiſter this proof of his ready compliance " with her wiſhes; not doubting but he " would one day have it in his power to " reſtore to Scotland its ancient weight and " independence." The letter concluded with recommending the buſineſs " to be " kept a profound ſecret, as he muſt be " ſenſible that a diſcovery might eventual- " ly materially prejudice their intereſts, " both in *Scotland* and in *England**."

THUN-

* To this hitherto unaccounted for incident, is to be attributed the conduct of the Duke of Hamilton on this occaſion; not to the inconſiſtent and invidious motives propagated by the partial Lockhart and the vain Colonel Hooke, the laſt of whom the Duke had diſdained to admit to any ſhare of his confidence. It is much to be regretted, that theſe authors ſhould have gained ſuch credit to their vague aſſertions, made againſt probability, as not to have been yet contradicted. Had the induſtrious Mr Macpherſon taken the pains to have placed their aſſertions in the ſcales of common ſenſe, he would have found them deſtitute of any weight. He had it, moreover, in his power to have gained evidence of this letter having been written by Lord Middleton to the Duke of Hamilton, while the Union was pending. The intrigues of the Duke of Marlborough and of Lord Godolphin, with the court of St Germain, were well known to him; yet is he ſilent

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THUNDERSTRUCK at this extraordinary and unexpected requeſt, wounded to the quick at not having had ſome previous notice

ſilent on the ſubject of their manœuvres at that period. Did he not feel ſome compunction, in attempting to explain the conduct of the Duke of Hamilton, in a manner ſo diſſonant with itſelf? After having paid to his integrity, his honour, his conſtancy, and his talents, the juſt homage they merited; after having ſaid, "his undeviating adherence to "the intereſts of James II: his induſtry and negotiations in "that Prince's favour in England, till the affair of Darien "had rendered Scotland a more promiſing field of intrigues, "had gained the Duke an unbounded confidence from the "court of St Germain; he conducted himſelf according to "their inſtructions, and they paid the utmoſt deference to "his advice;" he adds, (mark), "When the country-par-"ty, in conjunction with the Jacobites, had carried repeat-"ed reſolutions in Parliament, That the ſucceſſor to the "crown of England ſhould not mount the throne of Scot-"land; a gleam of royalty *ſeems* to have opened on the "Duke of Hamilton's mind," &c. What is this but ſemblance and ſuppoſition, oppoſed to the cleareſt evidence of facts? of facts ſupported by his ſubſequent actions to his death! a fiction to combat a truth, finally ſtamped with his blood! Was he then, by withdrawing his oppoſition to the Union, and checking the fervour of his party, paving his own way to the throne? The aſſertion refutes itſelf. Leſt, however, any doubt ſhould yet be entertained of the former exiſtence of that letter, it behoves me to remove it; and I truſt to be able to effect it, beyond the poſſibility of ſceptics cavilling.

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tice of the negotiation while on foot, that he might have taken his meaſures accordingly, and debarred from conſulting with any one on this ſudden and momentous turn of affairs, the Duke abandoned himſelf to deſpondence. The conflicting ſtruggle within his breaſt, preyed viſibly on his health, and at length produced a violent fit of illneſs, which had nearly deprived his country of his future ſervices, and his family of his protection.

The Duke of Hamilton, in one of his letters to his ſon at St Germain, bearing date the 7th March 1707, ſays, "I "am very ſenſible of your unhappineſs at my illneſs, and of "your joy at my recovery. You have been very near loſing "a friend and a father; but, thank God! I am growing "ſtronger every day, and hope to live a few years longer "for your ſake. Tell my Lord Middleton not to be uneaſy about his letter. I have been too ſick to anſwer it; "but I burnt it, with other papers, for fear of accident; "ſo that his ſecret would have gone to the grave with me. "He has been duped, as I expected; he might have known "the men with whom he was dealing."

The world will readily believe, that it affords me unſpeakable gratification, to be enabled at laſt to clear the ſuperior character of that great man, from the ſingle ſpeck, with which malevolence thought to have found an opening to tarniſh its luſtre.

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THE Commiſſioner, in the meanwhile, availing himſelf of the conſternation which he ſaw reigning among the oppoſitioniſts, hurried the remaining articles through the Houſe; and thus, in the firſt days of January, the act of Union received the final ſanction of the Scottiſh Parliament.

TRANS-

TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE.

PART I.—BOOK I.

Peace refuſed.—Union paſſed in England.—Proceſſion to St Paul.—Vexations of the Scots.—The Duke of Hamilton's advice to the Pretender.—Second miſſion and intrigues of Colonel Hooke.—Relaxation in Government.—Renewal of Lord Godolphin, and even of the Duke of Marlborough's correſpondence with the court of St Germain.—Marlborough's journey to Saxony, and inactivity in Flanders.—French progreſs in Germany.—Battle of Almanza.—Miſcarriage before Toulon.—Reflections.—Intrigues of Secretary Harley.—Firſt meeting of the Parliament of Great Britain.—Inveſtigation of abuſes in the Admiralty.—Vote of both Houſes for proſecuting the War.—Practices of Marlborough to get rid of Harley.

THE year 1707 might have formed a bright epoch in the reign of Queen Anne. It uſhered in an Union long wanted

1707. Peace refuſed.

PART I. BOOK I. 1707.

ed for the ſecurity and proſperity of her dominions, and it might have gloriouſly terminated a furious conteſt, which depopulated her kingdoms, and drained them of wealth, while it deluged Europe with blood. It evidently became incumbent on her miniſters, to have foſtered the naſcent and promiſing alliance between the branches of her once divided empire, with ſedulous aſſiduity; to have reconciled the reluctant Scots to the ſacrifice they had made of their ancient rights and independence, by admitting them at once to a full participation of an extenſive and uninterrupted commerce. It particularly behoved them to have turned their attention to the reſtoring this great ſinew of the political frame to the priſtine vigour, which it had loſt by continued depredations, during a war, which, although ſucceſsful on the continent, had nearly ruined the Engliſh trade. A golden opportunity preſented itſelf, moſt fortunately, for ending hoſtilities obviouſly militating againſt the intereſts and harmony of the newly united Empire. The triumphant flag of Great Britain might, by that

thoſe happy means, have been diſplayed, in the remoteſt corners of the globe. Theſe miniſters were, moreover, bound by engagements, no leſs ſolemn, becauſe they were ſecret, to have acceded to the preferred and avowedly advantageous terms of the French Monarch. In fine, all conſpired to have baniſhed from the Queen's councils, the idea of proſecuting a war ſo very untimely and detrimental. Yet the inordinate cupidity of a faithleſs individual overcame all theſe weighty and momentous conſiderations. The Duke of Marlborough's party carrying every thing before them in Parliament, not only determined to refuſe the offers of France, but bluſhed not to inſult common ſenſe in alledging, "that too ample were the French "King's conceſſions to form the baſis of a "ſolid peace." Without pondering or heſitating, immenſe ſupplies for the next campaign were with alacrity voted. Eight hundred thouſand pounds were, as heedleſsly, provided, for the expence of an unſucceſsful expedition on the coaſt of France; which, after its failure, had ſailed for Portugal,

PART I. BOOK I. 1707.

tugal. This prelude over, they turned their thoughts to the gratification of their leader. A bill was accordingly brought in and hurried through the Houſes, to perpetuate the honours of the Duke of Marlborough, both in the female and male line of his family. This bill was immediately followed by another, extending the penſion, originally granted him by the Queen, during her life, amounting to L. 5000 a-year, out of the revenues of the Poſt-office, to him and his heirs for ever.

Union paſſed in England.

THE act of the Scottiſh Parliament accepting the Union having been laid before the Engliſh Parliament, the ſum of L. 398,000 was voted, as a compenſation to Scotland for thenceforth paying the cuſtoms and exciſe in the ſame proportion with England. The Union confirmed by both Houſes, having received the royal aſſent, thus became a fundamental law of the realm. This buſineſs cloſed the ſeſſion of the laſt Engliſh Parliament, which her Majeſty prorogued upon the 24th of April; two days after, appointing by proclamation, the

the 23d of October enſuing, for the meeting of the firſt Parliament of Great Britain.

Proceſſion to St Paul.

THE 1ſt of May being fixed for the commencement of the Union, was devoted to public thankſgiving. The Queen, on that day, repaired in ſtate to St Paul, in order to celebrate with greater ſolemnity a remarkable event, which, in ſpite of combined obſtacles, has at length diffuſed happineſs and proſperity over the face of this flouriſhing iſland. Few were the real enjoyments of that Princeſs; ſhews and outward pomp were therefore often employed to ſupply the defects of more intrinſic comforts. Hence the cauſe of her frequent proceſſions through her capital. But, while the multitude in England were amuſed with pageantry, the people in Scotland were groaning under the oppreſſions of their former rulers: they partook not of the benefit of a general government. Their officers of State, Privy Council, and obnoxious Miniſtry, were continued in the exerciſe of their uſual functions. So little regard was paid

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1707. Vexations of the Scots.

to the new proviſions for the management of the revenue of Scotland, which had fallen under the department of Lord Godolphin, that he did not even appoint any officers for its reception. The trade of the country, inſtead of being protected and extended, was grievouſly interrupted. Seizures were made of goods imported agreeably to the Union. The merchants were denied every ſort of ſatisfaction. So ſupine, in ſhort, was Lord Godolphin, that he ſeemed to wiſh, either that the Union had not taken place, or that it ſhould be diſſolved. It is ſcarce to be doubted, that he felt a pungent remorſe, at having ſo far yielded to the Duke of Marlborough's ſchemes, as to have concurred in proſecuting the war, contrary to his own inclination and the engagements which he had taken. He laboured under latent mortifications, which manifeſtly influenced his public conduct.

The Duke of Hamilton's advice to the Pretender.

THE Duke of Hamilton could not remain an unconcerned ſpectator of the nefarious proceedings of the men in power about the Queen's perſon; nor without animadverſion

madverſion ſuffer them to ſacrifice to their ſelfiſh purpoſes, their miſtreſs's honour, their country's welfare, and the ſubject's deareſt intereſts. He ſaw, with indignant grief, the abject reſtraint in which this Princeſs was kept, by the wiles of the Ducheſs of Marlborough, and ſedulouſly ſought the means of re-eſtabliſhing her uſurped authority. Having diſcovered, that the Queen's fraternal affection was thwarted by favourites, who had become her tyrants; that, ſenſible of her own inſignificance, ſhe had betrayed great uneaſineſs at the violence exerciſed over her inclinations; that ſhe had often, by ſtealth, vented complaints, upon this ſubject, to Mrs Maſham, one of the ladies about her perſon, and had intimated a wiſh to be delivered from her unworthy ſhackles: the Duke immediately made a dutiful tender of his ſervices, through the medium of that Lady, who was not long in imparting to him how benignly her Majeſty had received the pleaſing offer. His next ſtep was to write, the 7th of May, to the Pretender, acquainting him "with the favourable opening for "effecting

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" effecting a change in the cabinet, and " thereby baffling the machinations of " Marlborough. He warmly recommend- " ed to him to cheriſh the opening per- " ſpective, to cultivate the friendly diſpo- " ſition of his ſiſter, and by all means ab- " ſtain from any attempt which might ei- " ther give her umbrage or increaſe her " perplexity. He pointedly diſapproved the " ſecond miſſion of Colonel Hooke, whoſe " turbulent ſpirit could not fail to inflame " the minds of his adherents, and fruit- " leſsly drive things to extremities, which " might ultimately offend his ſiſter and " alienate the Engliſh *."

Second miſſion and intrigues of Col. Hooke.

THE courts of France and of St Germain, exaſperated at the inſidious conduct of the Duke of Marlborough and of Lord Godolphin, had early in the ſpring diſpatched Colonel Hooke a ſecond time to Scotland. They had charged him with letters for the principal leaders of the diſcontented in that country. He was inſtructed

* MS. Letter to the Pretender.

to

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to procure an authentic inſtrument under their hands, engaging themſelves to ſtand by and protect the Pretender, on his landing among them. He was directed to make a progreſs through the country; view its ſtrength and reſources; cultivate the well affected, and encourage the wavering. At his arrival, this gentleman was received, with open arms, by the Dukes of Gordon and Athol, by the Earls of Errol, Mariſchal, Panmure, and Strathmore, by Lord Stormont, and many other Nobles and chieftains whom he had viſited on their eſtates. So generally was the Union reprobated, and ſo eagerly did every one catch at the glimmering hope of its being ſet aſide by the Prince, that, in a few weeks, a memorial to the French King had been generally ſigned, earneſtly requeſting, "that the Pretender might be immediately "ſent to Scotland." It ſet forth with confidence, "That, on his arrival, he would "be received as King, without oppoſition: "That the eſtabliſhed government would "inſtantly vaniſh, without ability to ſup-"port itſelf. Out of the multitudes who "were

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" were to flock to his ſtandard, 20,000 " foot and 5000 horſe were to be ſelected, " clothed, armed, and maintained by the " memorialiſts, till they ſhould march into " England, where, in caſe the war ſhould " be prolonged for any time, it was inſi- " nuated, that France ſhould grant them " a month's ſubſidy." The Moſt Chriſtian King was further ſolemnly aſſured, " that " the whole kingdom, from an averſion " to the Union, longed for the reſtoration " of the exiled family. They threw them- " ſelves under his Majeſty's protection, " and truſted that he would effectually " ſupport their cauſe *." The memorial throughout breathed entire confidence in the French King, neither ſtipulating what ſtrength he was to ſend, or what aſſiſtance he was to grant.

PRIVATE letters accompanied this memorial, with which Colonel Hooke returned to France in the month of July. Under the diſappointments of France, this

* MS. Memorial to Lewis XIV.

diſpoſition

diſpoſition of the Scots proved ſingularly gratifying. Had it not been for the Duke of Hamilton, who recommended temporiſing meaſures, the Pretender, without loſs of time, would have availed himſelf of the warm invitation given him. On this occaſion, the Duke and Lord Middleton widely differed in ſpeculation. The latter, who was for yielding immediately to the earneſt ſolicitations of the Scots, unremittingly kept preſſing the French miniſtry to ſend the Prince over, and not to ſuffer the fervour of his adherents to cool, by procraſtinating delays. The reaſons, however, offered by the former, were found more cogent, and preponderated at the time.

Relaxation in Government.

WHILE Scotland was in this ſtate of fermentation, foreboding a general inſurrection, no ſteps whatever were taken by Government to guard againſt impending miſchiefs, or to curb the zeal of the people for the excluded family. The Pretender's birthday was publicly kept in Edinburgh, and ſeveral parts of Scotland, as a matter purely in courſe. So far from being at pains

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to conſolidate the Union, the miniſter, with apparent compoſure, ſaw large ſtrides making for its diſſolution. By abandoning the Scots to themſelves, he ſeemed to have courted an invaſion, inſtead of having evinced any anxiety to oppoſe its deſign. It is not eaſy to reconcile the variance at which Godolphin appears to have been with himſelf, unleſs it be kept in view, that he had been compelled, againſt his inclination, to break the faith which he had pledged to a Prince whom he reſpected, in not fulfilling his promiſe of a peace, the neceſſity of which daily manifeſted itſelf more and more. Linked in family-connection with Marlborough, engaged with him in a ſyſtem of politics, which, while it tended to aggrandiſe his country, he confided would conduce to the reſtoration of the excluded line, he found himſelf, at once, bewildered in a maze not eaſily unravelled. Driven far from his own courſe, he was at a loſs how to regain his former footing, reſtore his forfeited credit, and reinſtate himſelf in the Pretender's confidence. From one who had weakly ſubmitted to the proſtitution of his own

1707. Renewal of Lord Godolphin and even of the Duke of Marlborough's correſpondence with the court of St Germain.

own principles, and of the great duties of his ſtation, nothing could be expected but waverings and irreſolution. In the conſciouſneſs of the reproach which he merited, he had written, in the moſt ſubmiſſive terms, to the Court of St Germain. He had endeavoured, by every means he could deviſe, to ſhift from himſelf the blame of having diſappointed their juſt expectations, and he had reaſſured them of his undiminiſhed attachment to their cauſe *. The Duke of Marlborough, too, had renewed his hypocritical profeſſions of zeal for the Pretender. He had even had the barefacedneſs to attribute the rejection of Lewis's propoſals of peace, "to their not compre- "hending any ſtipulations in that Prince's "behalf †." Such inſtances of ſervile compliance on the part of the one, and of ſuch rank depravity on that of the other, would ſcarcely be credited, were they not atteſted by their own letters, publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

* MS. Letter to Lord Middleton. † Ibid.

PART I. BOOK I.

1707. Marlborough's journey to Saxony, and inactivity in Flanders.

THE French King, reluctantly compelled to proſecute a waſteful war, put himſelf in a condition, notwithſtanding the diſordered ſtate of his finances, to make head againſt his numerous and implacable foes. The coaſts of his kingdoms were lined with militia. He aſſembled an army in Flanders, under the Duke of Vendome; formed another in the vicinage of Straſburg, under the Mariſchal de Villars; ſtationed a body of troops in Navarre, another in Rouſſillon, and powerfully reinforced the Duke of Berwick's army in Spain. His fleet retook the iſland of Majorca; but in Italy, his troops intermixed with Spaniards, were reduced to evacuate Lombardy. Modena and Milan were yielded to the allies. The kingdom of Naples ſurrendered to the enemy, who ſucceſſively repoſſeſſed themſelves of what towns had been taken from them in Savoy and in the Milaneſe.

IN Flanders, the armies of the allies were kept, during this campaign, in a ſtate of inactive ſuſpence. Their operations were totally diſconcerted by the haughty demands

mands of Charles XII. on the Emperor Joſeph. Not content with every reparation that could be made, for ſome inſult given to his envoy by the chamberlain of the Emperor, the King of Sweden peremptorily required, "that 500 Ruſſians ſheltered "in the Auſtrian dominions ſhould be "forthwith delivered up. He inſiſted, that "the Emperor ſhould immediately decide "the election of Lubeck in favour of the "Adminiſtrator of Holſtein: That the Proteſtants of Sileſia ſhould have the free "exerciſe of their religion, according to "the treaty of Weſtphalia: That his Imperial Majeſty ſhould relinquiſh all pretenſions to the quota of troops which "Sweden ſhould have furniſhed for her "dominions in Germany, and that the "Swediſh army, in their return through "Sileſia and Poland, ſhould be maintained "at the charge of the Court of Vienna." In caſe of non-compliance with any of theſe harſh terms, this furious and rapid conqueror threatened to carry fire and ſword into the Emperor's territories. To divert a blow which might have proved fatal to the

PART I. BOOK I. 1707.

the confederacy, it was found expedient to diſpatch Marlborough to Saxony, in order to gain with money the miniſters of Charles XII. Through theſe means, the northern hero was perſuaded to depart from his hoſtile deſigns againſt the Emperor, who acceded to his peremptory demands, under the joint guarantee of England and Holland.

French progreſs in Germany.

WHILE Marlborough was negotiating in Saxony, the Marechal de Villars croſſed the Rhine at Straſbourg, forced the enemy's lines at Stalhoſſen, laid the duchy of Wirtemberg under contribution, entered Swabia, and penetrated to the Danube, without oppoſition from the Imperialiſts; whoſe army, under the command of the Margrave of Bareith, was ſo inferior in numbers, and ſo ill provided, as ſcarce to be in a condition to keep the field. At length the Emperor, delivered from his apprehenſions of the King of Sweden, contrived to muſter up a force ſufficient to check the progreſs of the French, much weakened by large detachments ſent into France. Towards the

the cloſe of the campaign, the Count Merci ſurpriſed the Marquis de Vivant, one of Villars's Generals; and the Elector of Hanover having taken the command of the Imperial army, forced the Marechal to take his winter quarters on the other ſide of the Rhine. 1707.

Battle of Almanza.

In Spain, the affairs of the Houſe of Bourbon were moſt ſplendidly retrieved, by the bravery of the Duke of Berwick. The kingdoms of Catalonia, Arragon, and Valencia, were held for Charles III. by the Engliſh and Portugueſe forces, under the command of the Earl of Galway and the Marquis Las Minas. Theſe two Generals having croſſed the river Xucar, entered New Caſtile, and advanced as far as Almanza. The Duke of Berwick, who had reached that place the day before, reſolved at once to give them battle. The two armies were nearly equal in number; but that of the allies was very inferior in point of diſcipline. No great dependence could be placed on the Portugueſe troops, badly trained, ill provided, and through religious prejudices

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dices averſe to the Engliſh. Theſe defects had not eſcaped the penetration of the Duke of Berwick, who was intent upon availing himſelf of the circumſtance. The Britiſh and Portugueſe Generals were not inſenſible of their diſadvantages; but they were too far advanced to retreat with honour. They therefore made the beſt diſpoſition in their power, and prepared to encounter the enemy.

On the morning of the 25th of April, the armies met. In a moment the battle extended from one wing to the other. At the firſt onſet the Engliſh infantry broke the enemy's centre, and penetrated ſome diſtance. The day was their own, had they been ſupported; but the daſtardly Portugueſe ſhamefully gave way, and preſently took to flight. At that inſtant, Berwick's horſe made a furious and well ſupported charge upon the cavalry of the allies, which threw them into confuſion. They were not ſuffered to rally. Shock ſucceeded ſhock, till they broke and diſperſed. Then ſlaughter commenced. In a hot purſuit, the fugitives

gitives were overtaken and ſlain. The brave Engliſh foot for ſome time bore alone the whole brunt of the battle. At length ſurrounded by the enemy's cloſing wings, they were miſerably hewn in pieces. Above 6000 fell on the field of battle, or were killed in the purſuit; 5 general officers, 7 brigadiers, 25 colonels, upwards of 800 other officers, with 9000 privates, were either taken priſoners in the action, or being afterwards ſurrounded in the mountains, were forced to ſurrender to the enemy; into whoſe hands fell all the artillery, ſtandards, colours, equipage, and baggage of the vanquiſhed. Las Minas, with ſome ſcattered cavalry, eſcaped to Xativa. Lord Galway with a party of horſe flew towards Catalonia, without hardly halting till he reached Tortoſa. Never was victory more complete, or purſued with greater vigour.

THE Duke of Orleans took the command of the French army the day after the battle, forced the city of Valencia to capitulate, obliged the reſt of the kingdom to follow the example of the capital; reduced

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Saragoſſa and all Arragon, under the dominion of Philip V.; while his rival remained cooped up in Catalonia, whence he endeavoured to make ſome feeble attempt towards Rouſſillon. Such was one of the baneful fruits of this raſhly protracted war.

Miſcarriage before Toulon.

As ruinous and inglorious was the attempt before Toulon. The Duke of Savoy and Prince Eugene, after the reduction of the Spaniſh dominions in Italy, had, in concert with Britain and Holland, formed the project of falling upon Toulon and Marſeilles. The deſtruction of theſe two ports, could it have been effected, would have proved of the greateſt conſequence to theſe two maritime powers. Accordingly, the Britiſh fleet, under the command of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, was ordered into the Mediterranean to attend on the motions of the allies. The Duke of Savoy and Prince Eugene, after diſtracting the French with different movements, marching and countermarching for ſome time to cover their real deſign, ſuddenly turned towards the ſea-

ſhore,

1707.

ſhore, forced the paſſage of the river Var, and coaſted along the ſkirts of Provence, in the midſt of ſummer, through a warm, rugged, and inhoſpitable country. They were retarded, during their long and tedious march, by innumerable and unforeſeen difficulties, and only arrived before Toulon on the 26th of July. This unavoidable delay gave the French time to provide for their reception. The fortifications of Toulon were repaired, with incredible expedition. Eight thouſand men entered the town in ſight of the van of Prince Eugene. Advantageous poſitions were taken by the French on the hills adjoining the walls. The Prince's troops having ſucceeded to poſſeſs themſelves of the heights of St Catharine, were diſlodged with immenſe ſlaughter. Undeſcribable hardſhips were endured by the allies before that place. They were unceaſingly haraſſed by an enemy, whoſe numbers were daily increaſing, while their own troops kept waſting with ſickneſs and miſery. They were in want of every ſupply, even of iron to ſhoe their horſes, which contrary winds prevented

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their receiving from Genoa. Out of 12,000 horſes, ſcarce 4000 were, in that rocky country, fit for ſervice. They, moreover, ran the hazard of being compelled to ſurrender at diſcretion. The Duke of Burgundy, by forced marches, was haſtening to Nice to cut off their retreat. No time was therefore to be loſt. The fleet and army having bombarded the place, both retired in the night of the 22d of Auguſt. Nor did their misfortunes end there; an exaſperated enemy hung upon their rear; in their retreat the allies loſt a number of their men, with the greateſt part of their horſes. Every place through which they paſſed bore the ſad traces of their diſgrace.

THE Chevalier Fourbin took two Engliſh men of war, with twenty merchantmen, and after engaging a ſuperior ſquadron, was ſuffered to regain the coaſt of France. Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, on his return, with a fleet of fifteen ſhips of the line and ſome frigates, having, in the night of the 22d of October, miſtaken his courſe, at his entrance

entrance into the Channel, ſtruck on the rocks to the weſtward of the iſlands of Scilly, foundered in his own ſhip the Aſſociation, with the Eagle, Romney, and Firebrand. The Admiral and all the crews of thoſe ſhips miſerably periſhed, except the Captain and twenty-four ſailors of the Firebrand. 1707.

THUS ended a campaign unadviſedly commenced, which an honourable peace might altogether have rendered unneceſſary. Much miſchief had been done, abundance of blood had been ſpilt, large tracts of country deſolated, to attain a chimera; while glorious, laſting, and ſubſtantial advantages had been wantonly, nay, wickedly, ſpurned at. In the purſuit of this airy phantom, Britain had this year alone expended near L. 6,000,000 Sterling, had ſacrificed the lives of 15,000 of her ſubjects, had loſt ſix of her capital ſhips, had ſeen her languid trade further weakened, and, monſtrous to relate, was actually nurſing up the ſeeds of rebellion within her own boſom. Revolting as this picture may ſeem, Reflections.

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ſeem, yet that it is far from being overcharged, appeal is made to all the hiſtorical records of thoſe times.

Intrigues of Secretary Harley.

ONE of the objects of the Duke of Hamilton, to reſcue the Sovereign from her bondage, was to break the Duke of Marlborough's ſtrong combination. For that purpoſe, Mr Harley, joint Secretary of State with one of Marlborough's ſons-in-law, the young Lord Sunderland, was pitched upon by him, and recommended as a ſucceſſor to Lord Godolphin. Mrs Maſham undertook ſecretly to ſound Mr Harley. She found him readily diſpoſed to enter into their views. It was accordingly ſettled, that he ſhould take efficient ſteps to form a formidable party, againſt the approaching meeting of Parliament. The abſence of Marlborough, and the ill ſucceſs of the campaign, afforded ample means to ſap the foundation of his political edifice. Men began to awake from their enthuſiaſtic trance, and to view their hero, diveſted of victorious glare, ſuch as he really was. He was far from being in the degree of univerſal

univerſal eſtimation, which he fondly flattered himſelf to poſſeſs. His great ſucceſſes were obſcured by acts of meanneſs and rapacity, which rendered his character truly contemptible. The haughtineſs of his deportment forcibly recalled his ignoble origin, and the defiled gradations of his ſudden elevation. The palpable tyranny exerciſed by his Ducheſs, over an amiable and timid Princeſs, made a diſagreeable impreſſion upon the minds of all thoſe who approached the Court. The dejection of Lord Godolphin, joined to the natural indolence of his temper, was ill calculated to inſpire confidence in the ſupporters of his adminiſtration, already diſguſted at his ſervility. Inſtead of bringing forward men of credit and abilities, every place of profit under Government was filled by creatures of Marlborough's choice. The misfortunes of the campaign contributed not a little to diſpel the faſcinating charm of vain illuſions. No longer amuſed with victories, the people began to perceive the abyſs into which they were plunging headlong: they grew ſenſible of having been miſguided, and impatient under accumulating

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accumulating burdens. No circumſtance could be ſo favourable as that preſenting itſelf, for opening mens eyes upon their true intereſts. With very little difficulty, Mr Harley prevailed over many members of both Houſes to ſet their faces againſt what deſtructive meaſures ſhould be propoſed by the Miniſter; whoſe downfal was ſeriouſly meditated, in a determined oppoſition to the war.

MARLBOROUGH appriſed of the untoward diſpoſition of the people, and of the unexpected attack againſt him, quitted the field, and haſtened back to the kingdom. He aſſiduouſly applied all his arts to prop his tottering popularity. The whole weight of his influence was exerted to countermine Harley; all his engines were ſet to work to intimidate the Queen, and to procure a majority in favour of the war. Although France was ſtill ready to ſubſcribe to the terms which ſhe had offered the year before, he heſitated not to advance that, proud of her ſucceſs at Almanza, ſhe had receded from them. He pretended that Lewis had offered

offered to reſtore Spain and the Indies to the Houſe of Auſtria; whereas his offers had really been, and ſtill were, "to cede "only the dominions of Spain in Italy to "the Archduke Charles; to give a barrier "to the States in the Netherlands; to make "compenſations to the Duke of Savoy; "to relinquiſh Gibraltar, and grant to the "ſubjects of Great Britain the ſame ad-"vantages of trade in the Spaniſh Weſt "Indies as had been ſecured by the Houſe "of Auſtria." Yet, by dint of miſrepreſentations, ſtratagem, and artifice, Marlborough contrived to draw to his ſide many whoſe opinions fluctuated. He was particularly ſucceſsful with the monied people, to whom the high intereſt of the funds preſented a glorious harveſt.

First meeting of the Parliament of Great Britain.

At length, in the midſt of this contentious ſtruggle, arrived the 23d of October: the Queen in ſtate met the firſt Parliament of Great Britain at Weſtminſter. Her Majeſty having directed her Commons to make choice of a Speaker, they withdrew to their Houſe, and during a fortnight, variouſly

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debated on the propriety of that meaſure. The difficulty being at laſt obviated by the choice of the ſitting Speaker, he was approved by her Majeſty on the 6th of November. In her ſpeech to both Houſes, after a detail of the affairs on the continent, the Queen "recommended ſuch regulations "as might tend to render the Union more "complete, ſhe demanded the accuſtomed "ſupplies, and concluded with exhorta-"tions of affection towards her perſon and "government, as well as of unanimity a-"mong themſelves." The Commons having approved the Queen's ſpeech, voted an addreſs of thanks. The Lords ſhewed not ſuch ready acquieſcence. The addreſs to the Throne was poſtponed to the conſideration of the ſtate of the nation. They reſolved themſelves into a committee of their whole Houſe, and proceeded to inveſtigate the public grievances. While they were probing the national wounds, a petition was preſented to their Lordſhips, in the names of above 200 merchants, complaining of heavy loſſes at ſea, for want of cruiſers and of convoys.

Inveſtigation of abuſes in the Admiralty.

THIS

THIS complaint led the committee to examine ſcrupulouſly the conduct of the perſons at the head of the Admiralty. The buſineſs of that department was carried on by a council, in the name of the Prince of Denmark, who, with the office of Lord High Admiral, poſſeſſed none of its powers *. Abuſes of an enormous magnitude were diſcovered in this indirect management of that important department. The report of the committee, grounded on that diſcovery, enumerating thoſe flagrant abuſes, was tranſmitted by the Houſe of Peers to the Lord High Admiral. To the heavy charges exhibited, an apologetic anſwer was returned, in the name of the Prince, futile in the greateſt degree, and in which he was finally exculpated, by a recrimination on a former High Admiral; during whoſe adminiſtration in the late war, it was ſet forth, "that 4000 merchant ſhips had been captured by the enemy †." Shameful muſt

* At the head of the Prince's council was Admiral Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough's brother, who directed all maritime affairs.

† Lords Journals.

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have been the neglect, and deſultory in the extreme the direction of naval affairs, to have averaged an annual loſs to the trade, of no leſs than 500 ſhips! What object could have been more momentous, than the protection of our own commerce? Should not this have been a primary conſideration? To what end were fleets equipped, and diſtant expeditions planned; while our trade, the vital ſpring of the ſtate, was daily intercepted, with impunity, by the enemy's flying ſquadrons? Too abſurd indeed appears to have been the reaſoning of the ſtateſmen of that age!

THE Lords, diſſatisfied with the Prince's anſwer, or rather with that of his injudicious council, carried up a ſpirited addreſs to the throne, againſt the abuſes in the department of the Admiralty; with which, although the Prince was not named or even aimed at, the Queen pretended to take offence. She was, however, induced to return a general anſwer, in which ſhe promiſed, "to protect in future the trade of "her

" her ſubjects *." From the inquiry into naval abuſes, the Peers paſſed to the examination of the military operations in Spain, which, from a proſperous beginning, had terminated in national diſgrace. After beſtowing a fortnight in examining the witneſſes and papers of the Earl of Peterborough, who had performed ſignal ſervices in that kingdom, whence he had been recalled, upon a complaint of Charles III.; ſo multifarious and intricate did that buſineſs prove, that it was diſmiſſed as unfathomable.

THE Commons, more manageable than the Lords, readily granted near 6,000,000l. for the ſupplies of the enſuing year. To ſooth the reſentment of the Scots againſt the Union, they addreſſed the Queen to iſſue a *Noli proſequi*, in order to diſcharge the ſeveral informations filed againſt the goods ſeized in Scotland. They repealed the act of ſecurity, which had placed arms in the hands of the Scots, and by a vote,

* Lords Journals.

" ſettled

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" ſettled the militia of Scotland on the ſame " footing as it was in England. The ſame " vote ſpecified, that there ſhould be but " one Privy Council in Great Britain; that " the powers of the juſtices of the peace " ſhould be ſimilar throughout the king- " dom; that, for the better and more ex- " peditious adminiſtration of juſtice, the " Lords of Juſticiary ſhould go on circuits " twice a-year; and that the writs for elect- " ing members to ſerve in Parliament for " Scotland ſhould be returned in the ſame " manner as in England *." A bill having been framed upon theſe ſeveral reſolutions, it paſſed both Houſes without obſtruction.

HITHERTO, however, Marlborough looked upon himſelf as extremely inſecure. He therefore redoubled his endeavours to obtain a parliamentary ſanction for proſecuting the war. The Queen, intimidated by his preſence, dared not avow her diſinclination to that meaſure. In ſpite of the arduous efforts of Harley, he found means to have a reſolve

* Journals of Parliament.

carried

1707. Vote of both Houſes for proſecuting the war.

carried through the Houſe of Lords, ſetting forth, "That no peace could be ſafe "or honourable for her Majeſty, or for the "allies, while Spain and the Weſt Indies "remained in the power of the Houſe of "Bourbon." This point carried, he found leſs difficulty in bringing the Commons to concur with the Lords in the ſame reſolution, and to have it moved, "That both "Houſes ſhould unite in preſenting an ad-"dreſs to her Majeſty, ſupplicating her to "make no peace, until that object was "previouſly attained." The Queen, in her anſwer, framed by Lord Godolphin, re-echoing the addreſs, aſſured her Parliament, "That ſhe was fully of opinion, that no "peace could either be ſafe, or honourable, "till the entire monarchy of Spain ſhould "be reſtored to the Houſe of Auſtria." She promiſed, at the ſame time, in compliance with other parts of the addreſs, "that ſhe "would continue her moſt preſſing inſtan-"ces to the Emperor to haſten ſuccours "for Spain, under the command of the "Prince of Savoy *." Thus were her hands

* Journals of Parliament.

completely

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completely tied up; the tyranny over her mind was thenceforth augmented, to a degree ſcarce tolerable. By theſe means alſo the nation was deſtined to languiſh, for five years longer, under the moſt grievous calamity; a prey to encreaſing exactions, and the moſt notorious peculations.

Practices of Marlborough to rid himſelf of Harley.

HAVING thus far ſucceeded in his ſchemes, Marlborough's next object was to drive Harley from the cabinet. To accompliſh this deſign, he availed himſelf of an incident, to which the other was an utter ſtranger. The Marechal de Tallard, ſtill detained a priſoner in England, had frequent occaſions to addreſs letters to Chamillart, one of the miniſters of Lewis XIV. He uſed to ſend his letters to the Secretary of State's office, where they were peruſed and ſealed. Harley, ignorant of the French language, was obliged to truſt the peruſal of thoſe letters to one Greg, a clerk in his office. This man, availing himſelf of this circumſtance, incloſed in one of the Marechal's letters one from himſelf, offering his ſervices. For a valuable conſideration, he engaged

engaged to betray his country to France; and as a ſpecimen of his abilities to fulfil his engagements, he gave an account of ſome important tranſactions. This letter having been intercepted in Flanders, was ſent back to London. Greg was ſeized, tried, and condemned. Although Harley could not have the moſt diſtant knowledge, or even ſuſpicion of the deſign, yet his opponent practiſed every art over the credulous, to involve him in the guilt. Notwithſtanding theſe machinations, ſo well eſtabliſhed was his character of unſullied integrity, that the attempt to blemiſh it was generally deemed unjuſtifiable. Harley ſeemed determined to keep his ground, and wanted not means to retaliate on his malicious detractor. His influence with the Queen baffled every dark attack on his honour. For a long time ſhe reſiſted every inſinuation to the diſadvantage of the ſecretary. At length both Marlborough and Godolphin made an overt and formal complaint of Harley's intrigues. Her Majeſty, not unappriſed of their own guilty practices, heard them, not only without

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apparent emotion, but with evident marks of diſdain. Stung with vexation at their diſappointment, they boldly reſolved to extort from her fears what they could not derive from her prudence. They both threatened to reſign, unleſs ſhe inſtantly diſmiſſed Harley. In the actual ſituation of affairs, fettered by the anſwer which ſhe had been forced to make to her Parliament, unprepared for any eligible change, and dreading the conſequences of driving things to extremities at that particular criſis, the Queen ſubmitted to the alternative, painful as it was to her feelings. The ſeals were taken from Harley. He had, however, the ſatisfaction of not retiring alone: Mr Henry St John Secretary at War, Sir Simon Harcourt the Attorney-General, and Mr Manſell Comptroller of the Houſehold, reſpectively gave up their reſignations, and choſe to accompany him in his retreat from public employment, with the avowed determination of being amply revenged at a fit opportunity.

TRANS-

TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE.

PART I.—BOOK II.

Oppoſition ſtrengthened by the late changes in the Cabinet.—Preparations at Dunkirk for invading Scotland.—Embarkation and ſailing of the Pretender.—State of Scotland.—Projects of the diſaffected in that country.—The Duke of Hamilton and other Lords brought up to London by Government-meſſengers.—Marlborough writes to the Pretender.—Opening of the campaign in Flanders.—Battle of Oudenarde.—Siege of Liſle.—Retaking of Ghent, Bruges, &c.—Inactivity on the Upper Rhine, in Italy, and Spain.—Surrender of Sardinia and Minorca to the Britiſh fleet.—Manifeſto of the Emperor.—Death of the Prince of Denmark.—Opening of the new Parliament by commiſſion.—Petition in the Houſe of Peers againſt the Duke of Queenſberry.—Nomination of Lord Pembroke High Admiral, and ſucceeding appointments of the Lords Somers and Wharton.—Perplexities of the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders.—Reflections.

1708. Oppoſition ſtrengthened by the late changes in the cabinet.

NO inconſiderable acceſſion of ſtrength was derived by oppoſition from the late changes in the cabinet. The ex-miniſters poſſeſſed talents which were held in great

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great eſtimation. To their ſhining abilities, to the ſoundneſs of their principles, and the depth of their reaſonings, juſt and uncommon reſpect was paid. Harley had, a few years before, been Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, in which he retained all his credit and influence. To his unabated zeal for the relief of his royal Miſtreſs, whoſe perſon he approached through the means of Mrs Maſham, private reſentment was now ſuperadded. No longer tied down to act with men whoſe meaſures he had long condemned, he applied himſelf indefatigably to expoſe their deſtructive views. At his inſtigation, the Commons proſecuted the inquiries into the miſmanagements in Spain, which the Peers had dropped. He ſpirited them up to preſent an addreſs to the Queen, demanding to be informed, "why a larger body of "Britiſh forces had not been in Spain, pre-"viouſly to the battle of Almanza?" Her Majeſty's anſwer was delayed for a fortnight, and when received, "was deemed "unſatisfactory." The Lords were at the ſame time induced to follow up their inveſtigations

veſtigations into naval abuſes, with a long and pointed addreſs to the throne, againſt the glaring miſconduct in that department *. Motions were repeatedly made and carried, in both Houſes, not very favourable to the perſons in adminiſtration. Buoyed up with the ſanction obtained for purſuing the war, Marlborough and his party affected to diſregard every effort of oppoſition; when they were ſuddenly awakened to a ſenſe of danger, by the news of an expedition equipping at Dunkirk, with ſuch diligence and ſecrecy, that its preciſe object could not well be aſcertained.

Preparations at Dunkirk for invading Scotland.

THE French King, utterly diſappointed in his hopes of peace, by the Queen's anſwer to the addreſs of her parliament, had reluctantly yielded to the preſſing ſolicitations of the Scots, and was earneſtly preparing to ſend the Pretender over to them, with a ſmall army. For that purpoſe, five ſhips of the line and twenty-one frigates had been aſſembled at Dunkirk: 5000

* Journals of Parliament.

men

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men drafted from the adjacent garriſons, had been ordered on board of this ſquadron, and of two other ſhips of war fitted up as tranſports; and the whole was entruſted to the command of the Chevalier Fourbin. No one ſurmiſed that an armament, principally compoſed of ſmall ſhips, could be deſtined for the coaſts of Britain. It was rather apprehended, that ſome *coup de main*, on the neighbouring coaſt of Zealand, was in contemplation. The Dutch had taken the alarm, and were making preparations accordingly; when the arrival of the Pretender at Dunkirk, in the end of February, under the name of the Chevalier de St George, unravelled the myſterious project. The Britiſh Ambaſſador at the Hague gave immediate advice of the circumſtance to his court. Mr Boyle, who had ſucceeded Mr Harley as Secretary of State, by the Queen's commands, communicated the intelligence to Parliament, on the 4th of March. Both Houſes, as is uſual on occaſions of imminent danger, united in an addreſs to the throne, tendering their lives and fortunes. The Commons, moreover,

over, brought in a bill for ſuſpending the *habeas-corpus* act. Sir George Byng, with twenty-three ſhips of war, had already ſtretched over and looked into the harbour of Dunkirk; but he had been driven back, by ſtrong adverſe gales, to the Downs. His ſquadron was immediately reinforced with ſeveral capital ſhips, beſides frigates. Ten battalions were ſent for from Flanders; the regiments quartered in the ſouth of Ireland had orders to march towards the north, for the convenience of a ſhort paſſage to Scotland, where it became apparent that the gathering ſtorm would burſt.

Embarkation and ſailing of the Pretender.

On the 6th of March, the Chevalier de St George, with his attendants, embarked on board the Admiral's ſhip, and immediately ſailed from Dunkirk. To deceive the Britiſh Admiral, in caſe he ſhould return to his ſtation, Fourbin had taken the precaution to place an equal number of ſhips in the road. Meeting with a calm, the ſquadron was forced to anchor before New Port, where ſucceeding bad weather detained them two days. During the gale, three

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three frigates, with 800 ſoldiers on board, made ſignals of diſtreſs, and bore away for Dunkirk. This accident induced the French Admiral to call a council of war, and propoſe, "Whether, in their weakened ſtate, "they ſhould purſue their voyage?" The Chevalier de St George, it is ſaid, determined the queſtion in the affirmative. They accordingly ſailed, in the night of the 8th of March, with a briſk and favourable gale. On the morning of the 12th, they found that, in the preceding night, they had overſhot the frith of Forth, where they had propoſed to effect their landing. They were obliged to tack about, and ſtrive to regain their deſtined port. On the next morning, as they were ſtanding in ſhore, with their heads to the ſouthward, the van of Sir George Byng's ſquadron, whom a boat from Oſtend had informed of the ſailing of the French, appeared in ſight. Monſieur Fourbin, availing himſelf of the wind, put before it, and ſailed large. In the afternoon of the ſame day, ſome Britiſh ſhips came up with the Auguſte, who kept up a running fight. D'Andrezel, in his account, ſays,

ſays, "That the Chevalier, during the ac-
"tion, entreated Fourbin to put him on
"ſhore, with his train, ſatisfied if no others
"followed him; but that the French Ad-
"miral, after long endeavouring to diſ-
"ſuade him from the attempt, at length
"poſitively refuſed to comply with his re-
"queſt." Whether this account be true or not, is extremely immaterial. Every one muſt be ſenſible, that ſuch a meaſure, in their ſituation, was impracticable. The French diſperſed themſelves; one only ſhip of theirs, the Saliſbury, formerly taken from the Engliſh, was recaptured by Admiral Byng. The reſt, after undergoing ſevere hardſhips, regained, by degrees, the port of Dunkirk. In the Saliſbury, among other perſons of note, were found John Lord Clairmount, and the Honourable Charles Middleton, ſons of the Earl of Middleton, with Lord Griffin, in an advanced ſtage of life. Sentence of outlawry had formerly paſſed on this laſt, on account of his having originally followed the late King James over to France. The two firſt were immediately ſet at liberty, by a ſpe-

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cial order from her Majeſty. The latter was detained; but the ſentence of the law was never ſuffered to be put in execution. Reprieves were ſent down ſucceſſively, till a natural death put a period to his lengthened and decrepit exiſtence. Acts of ſeverity, circumſtanced as the Queen's miniſtry happened to be, would have been highly imprudent. They might have produced recriminations from Lord Middleton extremely unpleaſing both to Marlborough and Godolphin.

State of Scotland.

A manuſcript ſtate of Scotland, written at the time, ſays, "That although the armament for the invaſion of that country "ſeems rather to have been extorted from "Lewis XIV. than intended as a ſerious "diverſion to the Britiſh arms; yet there "cannot be a doubt, that the abortion of "the ſcheme proved the ſalvation of the "Scottiſh government. Many of the no-"bles, the greateſt part of the gentry, and "two thirds of the people, were inflamed "to a degree of deſpair, at what they term-"ed, the indignity of the Union. The "injudicious

" injudicious violence with which the new " laws, for collecting the revenue, had at " length recently been introduced into " Scotland, bore the appearance of a deſign " in the miniſter, to rouſe the inhabitants " to ſome deſperate attempts, for breaking " a treaty, which he had himſelf accom- " pliſhed with great apparent zeal. Swarms " of ſurveyors, collectors, and other offi- " cers, were juſt arrived from England. " They enforced the new regulations with " a rigour better adapted to the indigni- " ties accompanying conqueſts, than con- " ſonant with the rights of a free people. " The friends of the excluded family fo- " mented with ſucceſs the public reſent- " ment againſt the Engliſh government. " Thoſe who had formerly been averſe to " the reſtoration of the Stuarts, now wiſh- " ed it ardently, as the only means to avoid " a yoke, the more grievous and inſup- " portable that it was novel and unex- " pected. All accounts concur in ſtating, " that the miniſter was inviting inſtead of " warding off an invaſion. Only 2000 re- " gular troops, known to be diſaffected,

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" were ſtationed in Scotland. The caſtles
" and forts were in a ruinous condition,
" and all unprovided with military ſtores.
" The money voted by the laſt Engliſh Par-
" liament, as a compenſation for Scotland,
" was depoſited in the caſtle of Edinburgh,
" which the ſlighteſt efforts of a reſolute
" enemy would have carried. A Dutch
" fleet had juſt been ſtranded on the coaſt
" of Angus, with ammunition, cannon,
" muſkets, and money. The act of ſecu-
" rity had placed arms in the hands of the
" people, of which they had not yet been
" deprived, although that law had been
" repealed. The Highland clans, though
" not ſo mediately affected by the inno-
" vations of the Union as the inhabitants
" of the ſouth of Scotland, were, from prin-
" ciples, naturally attached to a race of
" Princes, whom they conſidered as their
" countrymen, and whom they judged that
" ſtrong hand deprived of their native rights.
" So ſenſible were the officers of Govern-
" ment of their inability to maintain them-
" ſelves in Scotland, that they were prepa-
" ring to take refuge in the town of Ber-
" wick.

" wick. Had the Pretender, therefore, " accompliſhed his landing, with the ap- " pearance of a regular force, he would " infallibly have taken quiet poſſeſſion of " the whole kingdom *."

Projects of the diſſatisfied in that country.

It ſhould be recollected, that one of the propoſals of the Scots to the French King, after eſtabliſhing the Pretender on the Scottiſh throne, was to march directly into England, with 20,000 foot and 5000 horſe. To theſe would have been added the auxiliaries. Supplies of arms and ammunition were on board the French fleet. The object was to take poſſeſſion of Newcaſtle, and diſtreſs London, by putting a ſtop to the coal-trade. Had this project been carried into execution, terms might have been dictated by the French court to that of London. Theſe had been previouſly ſettled, and were in ſubſtance: " A peace to " France; diſſolution of the Union; re- " peal of the act of ſettlement; preſent poſ- " ſeſſion of Scotland; and eventual ſucceſ-

* MS. State of Scotland.

" ſion

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"ſion to the Engliſh crown *." From the Queen's affection for her brother, much was expected. From Marlborough and Godolphin every thing would have been extorted. They both ſtood in a perilous predicament. Neither ſubterfuge nor prevarication could have availed them. In the hands of Lord Middleton, who attended *the Chevalier*, ſo manifold and flagrant were the proofs of their delinquencies, that, to avoid detection, they muſt have unheſitatingly ſubſcribed whatever conditions had been impoſed. So much were theſe two men ſenſible how peculiarly they were aſſailable, that the utmoſt tenderneſs was ſhewn to the priſoners taken on board the Saliſbury, to the great aſtoniſhment of all thoſe who were unappriſed of the criminal lengths to which treaſon had been carried. Nor did thoſe two great offenders, from that time, reſt in peace, till they had ſecured themſelves under the protection of a ſpecial act of grace, which they procured early in the enſuing ſeſſion of Parliament.

* MS. Notes of Lord Middleton.

What

What the conſequence of a landing would have proved, may eaſily be imagined, from the miſchievous effect which a bare apprehenſion of it had upon the public credit. It occaſioned a violent run upon the Bank, which neither the aſſiſtance of the treaſury, nor of ſome noblemen of wealth, who ſtepped forward at that criſis, could long have withſtood. Had not the general panic ſoon ſubſided, it would inevitably have produced a national bankruptcy.

The Duke of Hamilton and other Lords brought up to London by Government-meſſengers.

UPON the diſperſion of the French ſquadron, Government diſpatched meſſengers into Scotland to take into cuſtody the noblemen and gentlemen ſuſpected to have been concerned in promoting the deſign of an invaſion. At the head of thoſe who were brought up to London, was the Duke of Hamilton. Whatever part he might have taken, in caſe the ſcheme had ſucceeded, he was ſo far from having countenanced it, that he reprobated every attempt tending to increaſe the Queen's ſolicitude, and exaſperate the Engliſh. His ſentiments, and the uprightneſs of his conduct, were well

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well known to his royal Miſtreſs. He therefore met with little difficulty, in clearing himſelf from an ill-founded ſuſpicion. The bail, to which, on his arrival, he had been admitted, was preſently diſcharged. In the Duke, the Queen beheld a kinſman and a friend, diſintereſtedly ſolicitous to promote her felicity, and generouſly engaged in her reſcue. Viſible marks of royal confidence were beſtowed on him; frequent and of long duration were the private audiences to which he was admitted, to the evident diſquietude of the miniſterial junto *. Through his intereſt, every perſon of note apprehended was diſmiſſed, on giving ſecurities. Parliament, which had continued to ſit during the alarm, having been prorogued on the 13th of April, and two days after diſſolved by proclamation, the Duke concerted meaſures with Mr Harley for the Queen's emancipation, and haſtened down to Scotland, where, in deſpite of every effort of the miniſter, he got himſelf elected, with the Earls of Mar, Rothes, Wemyſs,

* MS. Letters on the ſubject.

Northeſk,

Northeſk, Leven, and Orkney, among the ſixteen Peers returned for Scotland.

Marlborough writes to the Pretender.

THE Duke of Marlborough had left London on the 29th of March, and had arrived at the Hague, where Prince Eugene of Savoy expected him, to fix on a ſyſtem of operations for the approaching campaign. Their plan arranged, each repaired to Hanover by different roads, to communicate the reſult of their deliberations to the Elector. At his return, the Duke placed himſelf at the head of the confederates, in the neighbourhood of Ghent; where the French were aſſembling an army, under the Duke of Burgundy, aſſiſted by the Duke of Vendôme. From his camp, the Duke wrote to the Chevalier de St George, who, after his unfortunate expedition, had joined the French Generals, with a view to make his firſt campaign. "He condoled with him "on the failure of his late project, which "he thought well planned; chid him for "not having previouſly acquainted him "with his deſign, as he could have enſured "its ſucceſs; encouraged him to hope for

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"ſome other favourable opening; and bid "him reſt aſſured, that he anxiouſly watch- "ed for opportunities of convincing him "of his zeal *." Whether Marlborough ſpoke his genuine ſentiments, or, prompted by the fear of a diſcloſure of his former treacheries, he was endeavouring to keep alive a dependance upon him for future ſervices, is now immaterial to poſterity, who muſt, at all events, contemplate his conduct with deteſtation.

Opening of the campaign in Flanders.

ALTHOUGH the enemy's army was more numerous than that of the allies, yet a war of defence having been predetermined in the French cabinet, the whole month of June elapſed, without any attempt having been made by either ſide. The cities of Ghent, Bruges, and Antwerp, wearied out with Marlborough's extortions, having inclined to throw themſelves under the protection of France; in the beginning of July, the Duke of Burgundy made ſome movements, to favour the deſign of the diſ-

* From an original MS. Letter.

affected

affected inhabitants of thoſe towns. On the 5th, a French detachment was received into Ghent, and the next day another into Bruges. The Duke of Marlborough, irritated at his being thus over-reached, with an inferior force, offered battle to the French Generals, which theſe declined, by croſſing the Dender in the night, thence moving towards Antwerp. On the 11th of July, they were obſtructed in their march by Prince Eugene, who, having joined Marlborough, had already paſſed the Scheld. The French took a ſtrong poſition on the banks of that river, which, with ſeveral incloſures, covered their left; along their front extended a moraſs, and on their right, their cavalry, intermixed with bodies of foot, occupied a riſing ground. The Duke of Marlborough croſſed the river in their ſight, and drew up his army for the attack. The infantry of the allies waded through the moraſs, and reſolutely marched up to the enemy, in defiance of a furious cannonade, by which they were ſorely galled. Vain proved all their gallant efforts, they were hotly received by the foe, on whom they

Battle of Oudenarde.

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they made no impreſſion. The Britiſh horſe were more ſucceſsful in their valiant charge. Under every diſadvantage of ground, and of a heavy fire from field-pieces and ſmall arms, ſo irreſiſtible was their ſhock, that the enemy's cavalry fell back, and left their foot to be trampled on and cut up. This repulſe of their right wing compelled the main body of the enemy to take ſhelter in the incloſures on their left, in order to avoid being flanked by the victorious horſe. The night put a ſtop to a conflict, which the allies expected would have been renewed the next day. But the enemy filed off by different routs towards Ghent, carrying with them all their baggage and artillery.

Siege of Liſle.

PRINCE Eugene, having been reinforced from Germany, inveſted Liſle. This town, on which the art of Vauban had been exhauſted, was conſidered by the French as impregnable. It was vigorouſly defended by the Marechal de Bouflers, with a numerous garriſon. The Duke of Marlborough covered the ſiege with his whole army.

my. With great art and much induſtry, he opened communications with Holland, which baffled the utmoſt efforts of the enemy. Vendôme was foiled in all the attempts which he made to annoy the beſiegers and relieve the place. A French detachment having attacked, on the 28th of September, a convoy eſcorted by Major-General Webb, near Winnendale, were totally routed by that brave commander, with the loſs of all their artillery. After a ſiege of three months, the town ſurrendered on the 23d of October. The citadel, into which the Governor retired with the remainder of his garriſon, did not capitulate until the 8th of December enſuing. Thus fell one of the ſtrongeſt and beſt defended frontier towns of France. Dear, however, coſt its acquiſition to the allies. They loſt in that famous ſiege near 20,000 men.

Retaking of Ghent, Bruges, &c.

ADVENTUROUS would have proved the march of the allies into winter-quarters, in their weakened condition, had not the French Generals been tied down to a defenſive war, by the orders of their court. They

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They occupied the banks of the Scheld, which the Duke of Marlborough was reduced to paſs. He, however, not only croſſed that river without oppoſition, but raiſed the ſiege of Bruſſels, which the Elector of Bavaria had juſt formed. Availing himſelf of the enemy's inactivity, he retook from them Ghent, Bruges, and Plaſſendal. After theſe conqueſts, in the end of December, military operations ceaſed in Flanders for this year.

Inactivity on the Upper Rhine, in Italy, and in Spain.

So ill provided were the Imperial troops on the Upper Rhine, that the Elector of Hanover was incapacitated from attempting any hoſtile enterpriſe againſt the Elector of Bavaria, whoſe force kept decreaſing daily, by detachments made for the main army in Flanders.

In Italy, the Duke of Savoy appeared not in the field, till late in the campaign. So vigilant was the Marechal de Villars in counteracting his plans, that he was not able to execute a project which he had formed, for penetrating into France, through Swiſſerland.

Swiſſerland. He therefore limited himſelf to ſtrengthen his frontier, by the addition of Exilles, Perouſe, and Feneſtrelles to his territories.

THE three armies of the Houſe of Bourbon in Spain did little more than act on the defenſive, agreeably to the ſyſtem of the French cabinet. Charles III. was not in a condition to compel them to deviate from their orders. Portugal, during this ſummer, yielded him no aſſiſtance. The Duke of Orleans contented himſelf with taking Tortoſa in Catalonia; to which he afterwards added Denia and Alicant in Valencia.

Surrender of Sardinia and Minorca to the Britiſh fleet.

THE Britiſh fleet under the command of Admiral Leake, having landed in Barcelona the Princeſs of Wolfenbuttel betrothed to Charles III. preſented itſelf before Cagliari, the capital of the iſland of Sardinia. A revolt of the inhabitants, headed by their Archbiſhop, and ſeconded by the Prieſts, forced the Marquis of Jamaica, their Governor, to ſurrender that valuable iſland and

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and all its fortreſſes to the Britiſh Admiral, in truſt for Charles III. The Sardinians were contented to receive their ſovereign, at the hands of the Empreſs of the ocean.

FROM thence Admiral Leake directed his courſe to Minorca, beſieged and took the important fortreſs of Port-Mahon; which, with Gibraltar, was, of all the numerous conqueſts made by Great Britain during this hot war, alone deſtined to recompenſe her for all her waſted treaſures and immenſe exertions. The forts defending this laſt iſland, although amply provided to maintain a long ſiege, were not proof againſt the reſolute bravery of the Britiſh ſoldiers, aided by their gallant brethren the dauntleſs ſailors. The whole was carried, as Gibraltar had been, in the courſe of a few days blockade. How much it is to be lamented that the valour of the intrepid ſons of Britain had not been more extenſively exerted, during this and the preceding war, on their proper element! During this laſt, in particular, what glorious opportunities were miſſed! The mines of Peru, all

all the Spaniſh Weſt Indies, whence the Houſe of Bourbon derived their reſources, invited them to conqueſt. No; for unmeaning ſucceſſes in Flanders, the noble harveſt was ſuffered to wither away uncropped, the country was drained of men and money, and its navy conſigned to decay in inaction.

Manifeſto of the Emperor.

THE Emperor, availing himſelf of the conſternation ſpread by the Britiſh fleet in the Mediterranean, publiſhed a manifeſto, denouncing vengeance on ſuch ſtates as ſhould not, on a given day, produce authentic titles, ſanctioned by the unanimous conſent of the empire, for the domains in their reſpective poſſeſſions. The Republics took the alarm; the Duke of Parma yielded homage for his territories; and the Pope, to avert the reſentment of the Emperor, was reluctantly compelled to acknowledge Charles III. as King of Spain.

Death of the Prince of Denmark.

DURING the heats of conteſted elections in Britain, the Prince of Denmark expired at Kenſington, on the 28th of October. This

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Prince had for ſome months been in ſo languiſhing a ſtate, that his recovery was ſcarce expected. Void of ambition, little adapted for active ſcenes, he never had intermeddled with politics, or ever had interfered with the views of parties. Mild, humane, and charitable in his diſpoſition, he delighted more in the exerciſe of private benevolence, than in the oſtentatious diſplay of public munificence; not deſtined to reign, he contentedly had filled the ſecond place in the realm, ſupremely bleſſed in poſſeſſing the means of tendering relief to the diſtreſſed. If his virtues ſhone not with the luſtre of blazing meteors, they were not the leſs endued with the benign influence of milder rays. Having lived the life of a juſt man, he left many behind him to bleſs his memory. With him many miſſed their ſupport; in him many an indigent perſon loſt a benefactor, a friend, a parent! The inconſolable good Queen was by his death deprived of her earthly comfort and domeſtic felicity. In his placid boſom ſhe uſed to depoſit her ponderous cares, to enjoy in his converſe that bliſsful ſolace,

His Character.

ſolace, unattendant on courtly pomp and ſurfeiting grandeur; thenceforth her embittered days were deſtined to flow in ſadneſs; her ſoul to languiſh, uncheered by the reviving preſence of a beloved conſort, in whom had long centered her beſt affections. During his painful and tedious illneſs, ſhe had attended on him with unremitted ſolicitude; ſhe had, with her own hands, adminiſtered the preſcribed medicines, and had watched over him with unwearied aſſiduity. The moment his eyes were cloſed, ſhe withdrew from Kenſington, and ſhut herſelf up at St James's, where, for ſome months, preſſing affairs of ſtate only were ſuffered to break on the pungent affliction of the Royal Mourner.

Opening of the new Parliament by commiſſion.

UNDER the preſſure of her recent private calamity, the Queen, unable to appear in public, iſſued a commiſſion for opening the ſeſſion of the new Parliament. The returns of members plainly demonſtrated the activity and efficacy of the Miniſter's influence in the late violent conteſts at elections. A formidable majority of his friends compoſed

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ſed the miniſterial phalanx. Sir Richard Onſlow, whom he had pitched upon for the next Speaker, was, without oppoſition, placed in the chair. The ſupplies for the next year were, at his deſire, increaſed to 7,000,000; and 10,000 additional men were voted on the eſtabliſhment, in order to keep pace with the States, who propoſed to augment the number of their troops: no oppoſing voice was heard in the Houſe of Commons; no ſtrictures or animadverſions whiſpered againſt the miniſterial meaſures; concord and unanimity apparently prevailed, when the attention of the members was awakened, by ſome debates on the Scottiſh elections. Petitions having been preſented againſt Lord Johnſton, eldeſt ſon of the Marquis of Annandale, and againſt Lord Haddo, eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Aberdeen, challenging their right of being elected as knights and burgeſſes for Scotland; proofs were adduced, that it had been the uniform practice of the Scottiſh Parliament to incapacitate the eldeſt ſons of Peers from repreſenting counties or boroughs, and their

their elections were in conſequence declared void.

Petition againſt the Duke of Queenſberry in the Houſe of Peers.

WARM and intereſting debates upon a queſtion of privilege had likewiſe ariſen in the Houſe of Peers. A petition had been preſented to the Lords, complaining of an undue return having been made in the election of the Scottiſh Peerage, to repreſent that order in the Britiſh Parliament. It was urged, with ſome degree of acrimony, that the Duke of Queenſberry had aſſumed, in his own perſon, the right of a twofold vote, contrary to the expreſs privilege of peerage, admitting but of a ſingle one: That having been created a Britiſh Peer, under the title of Duke of Dover, he had improperly interfered in the election of the Peers in Scotland, in which he had given his voice. This queſtion having undergone a full and animated diſcuſſion, was, upon a diviſion of the Houſe, carried againſt the Duke of Queenſberry, ſupported, as he was, by the whole force of Government *.

* Journals of Parliament.

Theſe

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Theſe embers of diſcord in the Houſe of Peers were, however, ſoon ſmothered, by a ſeaſonable partition of the emoluments of places with ſome of the moſt troubleſome and prying. The great office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, vacant by the death of the Prince of Denmark, was a bait powerfully attractive. It was for ſome time held out with conſiderable advantage, and was at length beſtowed on the Earl of Pembroke; leſs on account of his fair claim to it, having before filled that office with applauſe, than in conſideration of the two valuable places which he had to reſign.

Nomination of Lord Pembroke High Admiral, and ſucceeding appointments of the Lords Somers and Wharton.

On being nominated High Admiral, Lord Pembroke, of courſe, reſigned both the preſidency of the council and the government of Ireland. Lord Somers, who had been totally overlooked in all the political arrangements of this reign, was appointed Preſident of the Council, and Lord Wharton, profeſſing himſelf a Whig, but intrinſically void of moral or religious principles, who, with miſchievous abilities, had long

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long been a thorn in the miniſter's ſides, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Lord Dorſet, and others, were ſworn in members of her Majeſty's Privy Council, and gratified to the full extent of their wiſhes.

It may not be amiſs, in this place, to detail the circumſtances attending the miniſter's deviation from his original ſyſtem, and give a particular account of the extraordinary means employed by Lord Wharton to recommend himſelf ſo ſuddenly to Godolphin's notice. The Marquis of Annandale happened to have in his poſſeſſion one of the Treaſurer's original letters to the court of St Germain. By inſinuating his certain knowledge of Lord Godolphin's ſecret and tickliſh manœuvres with the excluded Prince, while a petition of his lay pending, againſt an undue return in the election of one of the Peers for Scotland, the full ſupport of Government was inſtantaneouſly afforded, to ſeat him in the Houſe of Peers. Lord Wharton, having got wind of this circumſtance, entered into

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to an immediate treaty with the Marquis, for his miraculous manuſcript. For ſome conſideration, either given or promiſed, it was readily transferred to him. No ſooner was Lord Godolphin appriſed of his lying at the mercy of Lord Wharton, than he became as pliant and gracious, as he had, a while before, been lofty and diſtant. In the height of his alarm, he, with all expedition, imparted the ſerious tidings to the Duke of Marlborough; who, without loſs of time, directed him, by all poſſible means, to be ſpeedy in huſhing the buſineſs, and giving to the holder of the letter whatever he ſhould aſk. Lord Wharton was not of a ſelfiſh nature; he regarded his friends; he contented himſelf with the government of Ireland, for his own ſhare; and inſiſted upon the privy ſeal for Lord Somers, the admiſſion in council of Lord Dorſet, and ſome other douceurs for other friends *.

Perplexities of the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders.

WHILE theſe aſtoniſhing promotions were taking place in Great Britain, the

* MS. Anecdotes.

Duke

Duke of Marlborough was detained in Flanders, by concerns of a domeſtic nature. Since the victory at Ramillies, the conſequential conqueſts in Flanders had yielded to the Duke a conſiderable revenue. The management of it had been entruſted to General Cadogan, an intimate friend of his Grace, fond of money, and, like him, not over ſcrupulous about the means of its acquiſition. For the conveniency of impoſing and levying contributions on the conquered towns, it had been found expedient to ſtation the General at the Hague; for which purpoſe Mr Stepney had been removed from his embaſſy to the States, and General Cadogan had been appointed ambaſſador from Great Britain in his room. So faithfully had this uſeful agent diſcharged the truſt confided to his care, that he had the year before laid 6000 piſtoles in ſpecie at the feet of his Noble Patron, as an humble earneſt of gratitude from the magiſtracy of Ghent, who humbly craved as a favour to be continued in their offices during another year only. The ſuitors had in conſequence appeared

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ſuch eligible magiſtrates, that the Duke had, by his own ſingle authority, reverſed, in their behalf, the regulation made for the civil government of Ghent; although it had been ſigned by himſelf and the deputies of the States, on the 6th of October 1706; and he inveſted theſe worthy ſitting magiſtrates with full authority to oppreſs their fellow citizens at their own diſcretion. Some of the inhabitants of this town, as well as of Bruges, not tamely acquieſcing in what they deemed infringements of their rights, had opened their gates to the French. It imported now, therefore, to puniſh exemplarily theſe teſty and refractory Flemings: pecuniary fines were the moſt obvious and efficacious modes of atoning for their offences. The delinquents entreated General Cadogan to interpoſe his good offices in ſoothing their conqueror's reſentment. Through his friendly means, the Duke of Marlborough contented himſelf with receiving only 200,000 guilders; and in return for his mediation, General Cadogan took no more than 10,000 piſtoles. As, in all public tranſactions, it is a difficult

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taſk to pleaſe every body, ſome of the inhabitants of thoſe towns, deeming themſelves ſeverely treated, were induced to lay their grievances at the foot of the Britiſh throne, in a long memorial addreſſed to her Majeſty *. Whether the Flemiſh complaints ever reached the royal ear or not, is quite as unimportant as the memorial proved nugatory. So far from having it in her power to grant redreſs to others, ſhe was not able to meliorate her own ſituation.

Reflections.

MARLBOROUGH, diſdaining all grumblings, cloſed his late campaign both valiantly and lucratively. Whatever blot illnatured envy choſe to caſt on his exploits, gave him no concern; his ſolicitude was engroſſed with the increaſe of his favourite hoard, by all the means, whether fair or unfair, which propitious Fortune threw in his way. Of all the Heathen deities of whom Marlborough had heard, for he had not been troubled in his youth with faſtidious learning, the god Plutus alone recei-

* MS. original petition to her Majeſty, from the inhabitants of Ghent, &c.

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ved his fervent vows. *Et genus et formam regina pecunia donat*, was the firſt article of his creed. Still, after all his public and private ſucceſſes, ſome perplexity obtruded itſelf on the Duke's thoughts. The wicked Lord Wharton had lighted up a match, which his Grace wiſhed extremely to have fairly put out, before he ſhould venture over to Britain with his earnings, and lodge them ſafely in the public funds, under the ſafeguard of his truſty connection and boſom friend the Lord Treaſurer of the kingdom.——To reſume the gravity of a faithful hiſtorian, recording well-atteſted facts, ſuch, Britons, was your hero! Would I had not to recount worſe miſdeeds of his perpetrating!

TRANS-

TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE.

PART I.—BOOK III.

Act for extending the laws of Treaſon to Scotland.—Special Act of Grace.—Arrival of the Duke of Marlborough from Flanders, and cenſure on his conduct.—Capital of the Bank doubled.—Conferences at the Hague, and humiliating conceſſions of France to gain peace.—Conferences abruptly broken off by the ſudden departure of the Duke of Marlborough.—Miſſion of the Marquis de Torcy, and re-opening of the conferences.—Conferences a ſecond time broken off.—Opening of the campaign.—Capitulation of Tournay.—Battle of Malplaquet.—Defeat of the Count Merci in Upper Alſace.—Supineneſs of the confederates reſpecting Spain.—Depredations of the enemy's privateers.—Reflections.—Dr Sacheverell's ſermon at St Paul's.—Meeting of Parliament.—Dr Sacheverell taken into cuſtody and impeached.

1709.

THE Britiſh legiſlature judged it expedient, in the commencement of this year, to extend the laws of treaſon, that huge engine of deſpotiſm, unhappily found indiſpenſable

Act for extending the laws of treaſon to Scotland.

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indiſpenſable in the government of a free country, and become peculiarly ſo at this critical period. There was no conniving any longer at combinations tending to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed government; which, from a diſordered head, diffuſed themſelves to the moſt remote limbs of the political ſyſtem. The treatment experienced in the preceding year, by the perſons of rank arreſted in the north and brought priſoners to London, upon an unfounded ſuſpicion, without an accuſer to be confronted, or an evidence adduced, to ſubſtantiate any charge, was, in general, not only conſidered as unconſtitutional, but in a high degree arbitrary and oppreſſive. What rendered the miniſterial proceedings, on this occaſion, the more odious was, that to the cogniſance of many, the miniſter's tyranny had been grievouſly aggravated by perfidy. The diſſatisfaction prevailing without doors at this ſingular ſtretch of authority, was at length formally brought before the Houſe of Peers, by a diſagreement in opinion between the Court of Juſticiary and her Majeſty's Advocate in Scotland, reſpecting

ſpecting the trial of ſome perſons ſuſpected of having had a concern in the late meditated invaſion. This concatenated circumſtance induced the Lords to enter upon a reviſion of the laws in force againſt treaſon in Scotland. On examination, they were found much milder than thoſe exiſting in England. It was, in conſequence, moved, to bring in a bill for extending the Engliſh laws, in caſes of treaſon, to the whole kingdom of Great Britain. The motion was ſtrenuouſly, but vainly oppoſed, by the Scottiſh Peerage. The debates on this bill, in its progreſs through the Houſes, became violent and intereſting. Energetic arguments were urged againſt the expediency and juſtice of that meaſure, and the moſt reſolute oppoſition given to it by all the repreſentatives for Scotland. The Houſe of Commons, yielding to the cogency of the Scottiſh members reaſonings, qualified the bill with an amendment, directing, "That "all perſons indicted for high treaſon, or "miſpriſion of treaſon, ſhould have, not "only a copy of their indictment, but a "liſt of all the witneſſes to be produced, "and

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" and of the jurors to be impannelled, with " their profeſſions and places of abode, de- " livered to them ten days before the trial, " and in the preſence of two witneſſes." The Lords however defeated, for the time, this juſt and humane clauſe, by providing, " that it ſhould not take place till the " death of the Pretender *." Thus modified, the bill paſſed both Houſes of Parliament.

Special Act of Grace.

WHILE theſe debates occupied the attention of Parliament, the trepidations of the Lord Treaſurer were undeſcribable. The urgent neceſſity of an ample act of grace, both for his own and Marlborough's protection, manifeſted itſelf more and more every moment. The latter, whom private buſineſs no longer kept on the Continent, impatiently preſſed the miniſter to expedite that ſalutary meaſure. Godolphin needed no ſpurring to be quickened in his pace; but he dreaded to breathe a ſyllable on the ſubject, while his newly acquired friend,

* Statute 7 Anne, cap. 21.

the

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the *miſchievous Wharton*, remained in the kingdom. Intreaties and promiſes were not ſpared to perſuade him to repair to Ireland and take poſſeſſion of his viceroyalty; temporary embarraſſments were pleaded as the cauſes of delay; theſe the treaſurer inſtantly removed with a conſiderable pecuniary aid. All excuſes for tarrying longer in the kingdom being thus obviated, Lord Wharton was forced to leave London, fully reſolved to make further uſe of his precious taliſman. No ſooner, however, was the Lord Lieutenant's back turned, than the famous bill was introduced; and ſo rapidly was it puſhed through the Houſes, that the firſt intelligence received by his Excellency, on reaching Dublin, was, that the miniſter had fairly worked himſelf out of his clutches, and was perfectly ſafe, under the potent ſhield of an *act of grace*, pointedly and eſpecially pardoning all correſpondence with the Court of St Germain *.

THUS happily relieved from irkſome ap-

* MS. Anecdotes.

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1709. Arrival of the Duke of Marlborough, and vote of cenſure on his conduct.

prehenſions, the Duke of Marlborough embarked for Britain, and arrived in London on the 25th of February. He was ſoon followed by Major-General Webb, who had found himſelf cruelly deprived of his well-earned fame in the victory at Winnendale. The Duke, in his public diſpatch giving an account of that battle, had not only totally omitted making mention of General Webb, by whoſe activity and courage the enemy had been ſignally routed; but had attributed the whole honour of that victory to his incomparable agent, General Cadogan, who had not had the moſt diſtant ſhare in that action. A ſoldier's honour is too invaluable a gem to be parted with without a tough ſtruggle. Webb felt himſelf ſorely wounded at the indignity offered him. The commander in chief's account of that battle had been publiſhed by authority, and had found its way into moſt of the foreign publications. General Webb likewiſe publiſhed his own detailed account of every circumſtance, in which he flatly contradicted his commander in chief. He not only took pains to have it promulgated

gated at home and abroad, but formally carried a complaint to the Houſe of Commons againſt the crying injuſtice of his caſe. Independent of the advantage which truth has over falſehood, ſo many in that Houſe were ſenſible of the private meanneſſes which diſgraced Marlborough's public character, that the matter was taken up with uncommon warmth. He was, in the debates, loudly cenſured "for uſing "unjuſtifiable means to depreciate the me-"rit of a deſerving officer." The public thanks were decreed to General Webb, accompanied with ſevere reflections on the Duke of Marlborough.

Capital of the Bank doubled.

ALTHOUGH the ſupplies had been liberally and unanimouſly voted; yet, till the arrival of his friend, the miniſter had been puzzled about proper funds on which they could be charged. Marlborough ſuggeſted ways and means, which both fully met the public exigence, and aptly ſuited his own private ends. The capital of the Bank was doubled, and the terms of its charter extended to one and twenty years, inſtead of its

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approaching period, which otherwiſe would have taken place the 1ſt of Auguſt 1711. Government, by this means, obtained an immediate loan of 400,000 l. at 6 per cent. with the circulation of 2,400,000 l. in exchequer bills. The redundant ready money of Marlborough at once abſorbed the major part, if not the whole of the loan. In leſs than four hours after the books had been opened, the ſubſcription was completely filled up, to the utter aſtoniſhment of foreign ſtates, whom the circumſtance impreſſed with a high idea of the nation's wealth. The public buſineſs being ended, Parliament was prorogued on the 21ſt of April.

Conferences at the Hague, and humiliating conceſſions of France to gain peace.

THE miſeries of France had this year attained their ſummit. A pinching dearth pervading the kingdom was aggravated by the melancholy proſpect of a famine, which ſeemed inevitable. Severe froſts had been ſucceeded by a ſudden thaw, which had deſtroyed the grain in the boſom of the earth. Deſolation and miſery extorted from its people loud and unavailing complaints. The army

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army was unpaid, ſcarcely clothed, and badly fed. The public treaſury was empty; and in a country deſtitute of the artificial reſources of credit, the means for proſecuting a diſaſtrous war no where preſented themſelves. In this alarming and neceſſitous ſtate, the Monarch reſolved to make another attempt to ſooth the inveteracy of his numerous foes. The envoy of Holſtein-Gottorp had already made pacific overtures to the States, which had been well received. With inſtructions to offer the moſt humiliating terms to the allies, the Preſident Rouillé was diſpatched to Antwerp. He held there ſeveral conferences with Buys and Vander Duſſen, the deputies of the States; from thence he repaired to the Hague, and made his direct application to the States themſelves. The Penſionary Heinſius gave Rouillé encouraging hopes; but declined entering upon the negotiation, in the abſence of his friend and prompter the Duke of Marlborough. The wiſhes of the French King were, however, notified to the Britiſh court, to the Emperor, and the other confederates. At length, in the beginning

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beginning of April, the Duke of Marlborough arrived at the Hague, inveſted by the Queen with the fulleſt powers to treat of and conclude a peace. Such was the plenitude of his aſcendence over his own Sovereign, over the States, and in particular, over the Penſionary, that on him alone depended peace or war. Prince Eugene, a ſoldier of fortune, whatever might be his inclination, could not obſtruct the glorious work. Rouillé, in the name of his maſter, earneſtly beſought Marlborough to confer the precious boon on his country. He humbly tendered him at firſt two millions of livres, and went on increaſing the gratification to the amount of *five millions* *. Conceſſions upon conceſſions were made to the allies; at length they were ſatisfied. All was agreed upon; one only difficulty protracted the concluſion of the treaty, which, in the drained ſituation of the French finances, could not ſo promptly be removed, the payment in ſpecie of the ſtipulated re-

* Authentic MS. Notes, corroborated by de Torcy's Memoirs.

ward.

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ward. In this ſtage of the negotiation Marlborough received letters from London, conveying the alarming intelligence, "that the price at which he had agreed "for the peace had tranſpired; that his "private contract with the miniſter of "France had ſiniſtrouſly been explained "to the Queen; that a ſerious altercation "had thence enſued between her Majeſty "and his Ducheſs, which had ended in an "open rupture; that his enemies were bu-"ſily at work, and that his preſence alone "could impede the progreſs of a ſudden "and total change of the adminiſtration." In a tranſport of wrath, the Duke upbraided Rouillé with want of diſcretion; abruptly broke off the conferences, by pretending to have received orders not to proceed with the treaty; charged that miniſter with baſe deſigns to amuſe the confederates; and precipitately left the Hague on his return to London *.

* Anecdote communicated by the Preſident Rouillé to my father, ſome time after having made his report of the circumſtance to the French King in council.

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THE fact was, that Mr Harley, well knowing Marlborough's ungovernable paſſion for pelf, queſtioned not, but on this ſmiling occaſion he would give it the moſt unbounded ſcope. He therefore had taken efficacious meaſures to have the plenipotentiary's ſteps minutely and attentively watched. From the vigilance of Harley's correſpondents, had reſulted the material piece of intelligence above alluded to. Mrs Maſham had loſt no time in conveying it to the Queen's ears, whoſe partiality for her favourite, in deſpite of her uneaſy reſtraint, in ſome degree ſtill predominated. Incenſed at this outrage on decency, her Majeſty could not reſtrain the inward workings of her indignation. On her countenance was ſtrongly depicted her abhorrence of this late act of baſeneſs. The clear-ſighted Ducheſs of Marlborough, perceiving the diſcompoſure in the royal features, had inſolently inſiſted on knowing the cauſe of the ſudden alteration in the manners of the Sovereign towards her. From an eſtrangement, matured at length into fixed hatred, had flowed ſuch an

an explanation as portended the ſudden fall of Marlborough's ſtupendous edifice. The Queen's friends, on the firſt intimation of the indignity offered to the Sovereign, had zealouſly flocked around the throne. The Earl of Rocheſter, the Duke of Hamilton, Mr Harley, and a number of others, had been admitted to long and repeated audiences. The fate of the miniſtry hung by a thread, when Marlborough unexpectedly made his appearance. The temper in which he found the Queen, called for the immediate exertion of his moſt refined artifices. Obſequious ſubmiſſions, humble prayers, fair promiſes, were by turns employed. To palliate the guilt imputed, devices were invented, ſtratagems contrived, reputation pleaded, and laſtly, indirect threats of vengeance thrown out. In fine, the timid Princeſs was terrified; ſhe relapſed into her former indeciſion, and at laſt, to obtain tranquillity, ſubmitted to her accuſtomed thrall *."

* Well authenticated Anecdote, ſupported by ſeveral MS. Letters on the ſubject.

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1709. Miſſion of the Marquis de Torcy, and re-opening of the conferences.

BAFFLED in his near proſpect of peace, the French miniſter left the Hague and returned to Verſailles. The account which he rendered of his miſſion, filled the King and his council with deſpondence. The campaign was on the point of being opened with an army, unprovided with even the common neceſſaries. In this dire emergence, the Marquis de Torcy, miniſter for foreign affairs, offered his ſervices. They were readily accepted; he ſet off without delay, and reached the Hague on the 6th of May. The terms which he ſubmitted to the allies were, "That France agreed to "yield the whole Spaniſh monarchy to the "Houſe of Auſtria without an equivalent; "to cede her conqueſts on the empire, up- "on the Upper Rhine; to give Furnes, "Ypres, Menin, Tournay, Liſle, Condé, "and Maubeuge, for a barrier to Holland; "to acknowledge the Elector of Branden- "burg as King of Pruſſia; the Duke of "Hanover, as ninth Elector of the Em- "pire; to own the title of Queen Anne to "the Britiſh throne; to remove the Pre- "tender from the dominions of France;

"to

" to recogniſe the ſucceſſion to the Britiſh " throne in the Proteſtant line; to reſtore " every thing to the Duke of Savoy; and " to agree to the ceſſions made to the King " of Portugal, by his treaty with the con- " federates." Without the Duke of Marlborough, however, no anſwer could be returned by their High Mightineſſes. This ſupreme arbiter arrived a few days after, attended by the Viſcount Townſhend, as ambaſſador extraordinary to the States, and, with himſelf, joint plenipotentiary from Great Britain to treat of peace. Many fruitleſs conferences were held, unproductive of any ſincere indications to conclude upon the deſirable object. Impelled by a ſecret grudge, which he thought well-founded, Marlborough's mind was made up to continue the war at any rate. The ſilken penſionary was the tool whom he meant to uſe, in order to gratify his ſpleen; and well did Heinſius miniſter to his friend's deſign. He framed forty preliminary articles, in the harſh dictatorial language of ſtern conquerors, addreſſing the meaneſt conquered foe. The French plenipotentiary ſubmitted to

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thirty-five; but ſo degrading and cruel were the other five, that he carried them himſelf to Verſailles for the acceding of his own Sovereign. Louis, and his council, in deſpite of the extremities to which he was reduced, had the ſpirit to reject them.

Conferences a ſecond time broken off.

THE utmoſt that the French Monarch could engage in, was to draw off all his troops from Spain, and abandon Philip V. to his fate. The allies, unſatisfied with this ſacrifice, inſiſted, "that he ſhould himſelf wage war againſt his grandſon and drive him out of Spain. They required that he ſhould ſurrender the ſtrongeſt towns in his kingdom into the hands of the allies, who were to hold them, as pledges, for the entire evacuation of the Spaniſh dominions by his grandſon." To acquit himſelf towards his people, and ſatisfy them that he had left nothing undone to deliver them from their calamities, Louis cauſed the whole negotiation to be made public. He wrote himſelf to all the Governors of his provinces, an affecting narrative of the tranſactions. The effect produced

produced upon the people by theſe letters and this publication, was as wonderful as it proved inſtantaneous. It filled every breaſt with honeſt indignation. It animated the nation to make efforts, for the ſalvation of the State, far exceeding all expectations. With chearfulneſs the ſevereſt hardſhips were endured; it was accounted ignoble to complain. Succours of every denomination flowed in from all parts of the empire. The public coffers were filled, magazines repleniſhed, the armies were overſtocked; and not a man in theſe laſt was to be ſeen, but who panted with ardour to be led up to the enemy.

Opening of the campaign.

IMMENSE preparations had been made on either ſide for opening a moſt bloody campaign. The wide gaps made in the allied army, during the preceding year, had all been filled up with freſh recruits. To ſeveral Britiſh regiments lately landed, were added 8000 Saxons hired by Marlborough from King Auguſtus. Towards the end of June 110,000 combatants were muſtered up on the plains of Liſle. Marlborough

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rough deemed this force irreſiſtible, and confidently propoſed to penetrate into the heart of France. The Marechal de Villars, with an inferior army, occupied a ſtrong poſt between Courriere and the town of Bethune; theſe places covering each of his wings. His front was defended by the villages of Labaſsée and Pont-Auvedin. His poſition protected the cities of Douay and Arras, whoſe capture would have opened a paſſage into the kingdom to the conqueror. The Duke of Marlborough and the Prince of Savoy advanced within two leagues of Villars's entrenchments. Finding it ineligible to venture on an attack, they decamped on the night of the 24th of June, and ſat down before Tournay, whoſe garriſon had been injudiciouſly weakened to reinforce the army of Villars. Strong as that place was by nature, and ſtill made ſtronger by the art of Vauban, it could not long withſtand the united efforts of ſuch a mighty hoſt. The town ſurrendered after one and twenty days of opened trenches. The enfeebled garriſon maintained poſſeſſion of the citadel until the 3d of September,

Capitulation of Tournay.

ber, when the Governor yielded the place by capitulation.

FROM Tournay Marlborough bent his ſteps towards Mons. While the main army was advancing, the Prince of Heſſe was detached in force to diſlodge a party of the enemy poſted near that city; for whoſe protection Villars had croſſed the Scarpe, and lay encamped between that river and the Scheld, within a league of the threatened object. His right extended to the village of Malplaquet, behind the extenſive and impenetrable foreſt of Saart. His left was covered by another deep wood. Acroſs a narrow plain oppoſed to his centre, triple intrenchments had been thrown up, lined with heavy cannon, planted amidſt an abbatis of large trees, with branches interlaced. The confederated Generals having reconnoitred the enemy's poſition, reſolved to drive him out of his ſtrong hold.

Battle of Malplaquet.

THE opening of day-light on the 11th of September, diſcovered both armies drawn up in order of battle. Villars divided his command

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command with the Marechal de Bouflers, his ſenior, who nobly waving his precedence of rank, had come to ſhare in his toils, and contribute to ſave his country. He took upon himſelf the charge of the left, and to the generous Marechal confided the command of the right. Oppoſed to the enemy's left wing ſtood the Duke of Argyle, at the head of the Britiſh forces. Count Tilly with the Dutch fronted their right. The Germans in the centre were commanded by the Prince of Savoy. During two hours of ſtill and awful ſuſpenſe, both armies contemplated each other, with emotions widely diſſimilar. The allies elated with ſignal and repeated ſucceſſes, were reſolutely bent on atchieving ſtill brighter exploits. The French wrought up to the higheſt pitch of fury by ſucceſſive diſaſters, were eager, on that day, either to retrieve their ancient fame, or periſh on the field of battle. At eight o'clock burſt havock and deſolation; the two extenſive oppoſing lines were, at the ſame inſtant, involved in a fierce and inceſſant fire. The brave Duke of Argyle led his intrepid band of Britons through

through a deep moraſs, hitherto deemed impaſſable, up to the enemy's ranks. So furious was his onſet, that the French fell back into the wood, diſputing their ground inch by inch, till they reached the plain behind them, where they inſtantly formed. Deciſive, however, proved this daring manœuvre of the gallant Duke's, and in the end inſured the ſucceſs of the day. Villars, to ſupport his left wing, weakened his centre. With this reinforcement he forced the aſſailants back into the wood. The carnage was horrid; yet neither ſide ſhewed an inclination to yield the conteſt. At the ſame time the Dutch under Count Tilly had marched up to the enemy's entrenchments. For a whole hour they gave and received the moſt galling fire. Some battalions giving way before them, were brought back and confirmed in their ſtation, by the vigilance, courage, and activity of Marechal de Bouflers. The Dutch in their turn gave ground ſome little way. The French ruſhing out of their entrenchments, drove the enemy from one of their batteries, and carried off their colours; regaining

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gaining their poſt, they dauntleſsly ſuſtained another charge. This invincible and obſtinate perſeverance of the enemy's wings, was inclining the commanders to deſiſt from the attack, when General Cadogan pointed out the void left in the enemy's centre, by the troops whom Villars had called to obſtruct the progreſs of the Duke of Argyle. Prince Eugene, ſeizing this advantage, entered the enemy's lines with a body of freſh troops. He flanked a regiment of French guards, and forced them to fly. Villars haſtening to reſtore his centre, received a wound and was carried from the field. Marechal de Bouflers, unchecked in his ardour, maintained his ground, oppoſing the enemy in every direction. The cavalry of the allies forcing their way into the French lines, the Marechal ordered the Chevalier de St George, who ſerved in this campaign, to charge at the head of the Houſehold troops: Their ſhock bore down every thing before them; the German horſe were broken and diſperſed. They were, however, rallied and brought back to the charge, advancing ſlowly

ſlowly but reſolutely, under the fire of thirty pieces of cannon. The Marechal, perceiving that the enemy's ſole aim was to contend for the ſpot which he occupied, and not deeming that object worth the ſacrifice of any more valuable lives, reſolved to end the bloody conflict by withdrawing his army. His retreat was deliberate and orderly, without the leaſt ſymptoms of precipitation. He carried off all his cannon, except fourteen pieces diſmounted during the action. Nor did the allies attempt to annoy or diſturb his rear. They ſeemed ſatisfied with the honour of a field of battle ſtrewed with dead and dying. Near 30,000 victims, not including the wounded, amounting to upwards of 10,000, were, on that day, immolated to ambition. The confederates had about 21,000 men ſlain; and the French near 9000. Mons was inveſted on the 25th of September: its ſurrender on the 20th of October following, cloſed the tragical ſcene in Flanders for this campaign.

So miſerably did the Imperialiſts conti-

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1709. Defeat of Count Merci in Upper Alſace.

nue to be ſupplied on the Upper Rhine, as ſcarce to have had claim to be accounted an army. They were commanded, as they had been the year before, by the Elector of Hanover. This Prince, in concert with the Duke of Savoy, had formed a project of ſome magnitude, which the wretched condition of his troops precluded him from executing. The utmoſt which he could effectuate, was to detach Count Merci with a body of his beſt troops into Upper Alſace, where this laſt was completely routed by Count de Bourg, and driven beyond the Rhine. The Duke of Savoy at variance with the Emperor, pettiſhly refuſed to take the field, and contented himſelf with remaining on the defenſive. Marechal d'Harcourt, in the mean while, amuſed himſelf with levying contributions in the neighbourhood of Landau, and in the Marquiſate of Baden. While generous Britain fought their battles, the allies compoſedly looked on. Their ſupineneſs, relatively to Spain, the oſtenſible object of the rancorous conteſt, afforded another ſtriking inſtance of Great Britain's infatuation.

1709.

infatuation. Philip V. unaided by the French King, was ſuffered, with his own forces alone, to gain ſeveral eſſential advantages over his rival King, Charles III. as well as over his allies the Portugueſe. On the 7th of May, the Marquis de Bay gave another ſignal defeat to the Earl of Galway in Eſtramadura. The Duke de Noailles made conſiderable progreſs in Catalonia; and all the amends which Count Stahremberg, who led the forces of Charles III. could make to his maſter for his loſſes, was, by taking, in the end of the campaign, the little town of Balaguera. The confederates had undoubtedly a plauſible motive for inſiſting, that Louis XIV. ſhould drive his own grandſon out of Spain. For unleſs they could carry this arduous point with the vanquiſhed Monarch, they had little chance of effecting the evacuation of Spain by any other means.

Depredations of the enemy's privateers.

THE change of a Lord High Admiral had produced none in the management of the maritime affairs of the kingdom, which uniformly

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uniformly remained in the hands of Admiral Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough's brother. The protection of the Britiſh trade entered not into any one of his plans. A vaſt armament was, at a prodigious expence, and with great buſtle, fitted up in our ports; which, after ſome parade, and cauſing many movements among the militia on the French coaſts, was ſet aſide; the ſhips were diſarmed, and ſent into docks. Although the enemy had no fleets at ſea, yet their ſeamen were not idle: they crouded on board of privateers, or ſmall ſhips of war, which running in and out of their harbours, ſwarmed in the Channel, and with impunity preyed upon the trade. Their depredations, during this year, were not confined to the Britiſh ſhores. They had the effrontery to extend them to the Weſt Indies, and to the fiſheries in America. A ſmall ſquadron of theſe rovers croſſed the Atlantic, and took the iſland of St Thomas from the Portugueſe; thence directing their courſe northward, they ranged along the extenſive continent of North America, capturing, in their route, every Britiſh

Britiſh veſſel which they could come up with. Finding our fiſheries on the coaſt of Newfoundland without a naval protection, they ravaged and deſtroyed them. They ſtormed Fort St John, made the garriſon priſoners of war, and gave laws to that part of the world.

Reflections.

THUS, while the plains of Flanders were reeking with Britiſh blood, the empire of the ocean was abandoned to roving banditti; the nation's wealth was either wantonly ſquandered, or rapaciouſly plundered; and her trade was nearly annihilated. It muſt forcibly ſtrike every reader with aſtoniſhment, at finding that the people could ſo long endure enormities ſo atrocious. It was demonſtrable beyond refutation, that Britain was the dupe of her continental alliances. It was ſelf-evident, that the valour of her troops was waſted on unmeaning conqueſts, not deſtined to become her portion; that to aggrandiſe other powers, ſhe was plunging herſelf into apparently inextricable difficulties, and conſuming her own reſources. No territorial conceſſion had been made

to

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to her by any of the humiliating terms proffered by the Preſident Rouillé, to which Marlborough would have ſubſcribed, had the five millions of French livres been previouſly counted down to him, as ſtipulated. In the forty unconſcionable preliminaries, drawn up by Heinſius, and, I may ſafely ſay, dictated by Marlborough, no one went to make her any recompence for the vaſt ſums which ſhe had laviſhed away, and the rivers of her ſubjects blood with which the Continent had been deluged. Theſe facts were plain and obvious to the apprehenſion of every man; and yet the effervescent intoxication ſubſided not. Shall I be pardoned for preſuming to point out the cauſes of this prodigy? Too often and eaſily are the brave deluded by the crafty. The generous multitude attended only to the pompous relations of bloody battles and ſignal victories. They heard of the ſtrongeſt fortified and beſt-defended towns ſurrendering to the unparalleled proweſs of their gallant countrymen. They heard, what perhaps ſounded moſt gratefully in their ears, and heightened their hilarity, of the Grand Monarch being driven to his laſt ſhift.

ſhift. Regardleſs of their own cumberſome burdens; inattentive to their injured intereſts, and their invaded rights; inadverting to the monſtrous political ſchiſm in the ſtate, menacing their liberties; they rent the air with rapturous ſhouts, and exultingly went on forging their own chains.

THE audacious ſtrides making by Marlborough, for overturning the conſtitution, had been early ſeen by cool and diſpaſſionate obſervers; but the popular tide was too ſtrong to be ſtemmed. His deſigns had been conſtantly oppoſed, in the Houſe of Peers, by ſome enlightened and virtuous patriots, who plainly perceived, that he aimed at rearing up the ſuperſtructure of a tyrannical oligarchy, the foundations of which had long been ſinking deep, and were daily acquiring additional ſtrength. His perpetual tamperings with the excluded Prince were no ſecret. It was known that, in his late conferences with the Marquis de Torcy, he had dignified him with the appellation of "PRINCE OF WALES;" that he had unguardedly expreſſed to that

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foreigner * " his ſtrong deſire of ſerving the " ſon of a King for whom he would have " ſpilt the laſt drop of his blood." Since the paſſing of the act of grace, he carried on his intercourſe with the court of St Germain, through the medium of the Duke of Berwick. To him he avowed " his fixed re- " ſolution of reſtoring the excluded branch " to the Britiſh throne †." By thus feeding the hopes of that unfortunate Prince, his ſiniſtrous purpoſes were matured. From the aggregate tenor of his whole conduct, there is no entertaining a doubt, but he would have ſecured the ſucceſſion to either of the expectants who had approved himſelf moſt diſpoſed to continue in his trammels, and would have conſented to be degraded to the paſſive inſignificance of a Venetian Doge.

By a feigned repentance for, and an artful colouring of his original deſertion of James, he had reinſtated himſelf in his

* Marquis de Torcy's Memoirs.

† Taken from a correſpondence with the Duke of Berwick.

daughter's

daughter's favour; by flattering that Princeſs with advancing proſpects for reſtoring her father, and thus atoning for his paſt offence, he had wormed himſelf deeper and deeper in her confidence. From her acceſſion to this time, he had kept impoſing upon her credulity, by inſinuating, that all his ſteps and all his meaſures had for object to enſure the ſucceſſion to her crown to her brother. Through theſe arts, had this idol of the people and of his Sovereign contrived to engroſs a ſuperiority in the ſtate, of which there are few examples. Although unaided by a liberal education, he was nevertheleſs endowed with uncommon talents to render himſelf perſuaſive. Virtually the ſupreme ruler of the realm, he held the Britiſh Sovereign in captivity within her own palace. When great occaſions demanded it, ſhe was brought forth, and delivered the dictates of her oracle. She was utterly deſtitute of power, even over her own privy purſe, (this was one of her heavieſt complaints *), while Marlbo-

* From Letters written by Mrs Maſham.

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rough's ponderous ſway extended over every branch of the prerogative. He directed the patronage of the church, the diſtribution of honours, the nomination of judges, the delegation of ambaſſadors and miniſters to foreign courts, the appointment of governors of provinces and cities, the promotions, in fine, to all civil, military, and naval departments. He could make peace or war. He was at the head of a victorious army, and in caſe of need, could even command foreign aſſiſtance. His private income was immenſe, and his wealth accumulating to an enormous bulk. Conquered towns yielded him annual tributes. From the very pay of his troops, and the maintenance of his army, ſhameful profits were derived. The public revenue paſſed through his hands, or thoſe of his aſſociates, without controul or examination. His family-connections were all armed with power, and all equally intereſted in propping, and defending with all their might, his formidable political edifice. With only a part of theſe means, Cæſar had conquered and enſlaved his country.

MARI-

MARLBOROUGH, moreover, poſſeſſed an overgrown property in the public funds, and thence derived an uncommon influence over the monied people, who were bound to ſupport his meaſures in Parliament. For, let it be well underſtood, that the Whigs, in this reign in particular, were principally the monied intereſt, and the Tories the landed. Oppoſition to his ambitious views could therefore only originate from a few patriotic Nobles, at the head of whom dauntleſsly and prominently ſtood the Duke of Hamilton *. He laboured inceſſantly in keeping the eyes of the Queen opened upon the ſiniſtrous deſigns of Marlborough, in combating her propenſity to truſt him, and in evincing the fallacy of his declarations. But what aſſiſted more in the undertaking, were the violent attempts from time to time made by the Ducheſs of Marlborough, to regain by force the aſcendant which ſhe had loſt over the mind of her miſtreſs. So thoroughly was the Queen at length diſ-

* I appeal to all the ſecret Anecdotes of this Reign.

guſted,

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guſted, that ſhe determined to diſcard her unworthy ſervants, and aſſume the reins of government. This ſtep having been formally reſolved upon, able pens were employed to give a preparatory alarm, and diſſeminate among the people juſt ideas of the peril to which they ſtood expoſed. Nor did the Queen's friends limit themſelves to this precarious reſource. The pulpit itſelf was deemed a fit place, not only to inculcate religious duties, but forcibly to rouſe a ſlumbering crowd from lethargic derelictions of their deareſt temporal intereſts. Among the clergymen, who, in preaching the Chriſtian doctrine, were induced to warn their auditors againſt the dangers menacing both church and ſtate, conſpicuouſly ſtood forth Dr Henry Sacheverell.

Dr Sacheverell's ſermon at St Paul's.

On the 5th of November, before the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen of London, attended by a numerous audience, the Doctor delivered at St Paul's a pathetic and animated diſcourſe, forcibly, though myſtically, pointing out the conſtitutional perils

perils threatening the nation. The ſermon was publiſhed at the requeſt, and under the ſanction of the Lord Mayor. So eager were all ranks of men to imbibe the novel doctrine, that, in the courſe of a few weeks, 40,000 copies of the ſermon were circulated.

Meeting of parliament.

ON the 15th of November enſuing, her Majeſty in perſon opened the ſeſſion of Parliament. In the ſpeech from the throne, ſhe was compelled, as ſhe had been uniformly hitherto, to pronounce aſſertions very foreign to her real ſentiments. She was made to advance, "That France had uſed all her ar-"tifices to amuſe the allies with falſe ap-"pearances and deceitful inſinuations of "her deſire for peace." The Commons, with their wonted alacrity, voted ſix millions for the ſupplies, which were placed on adequate and ſufficient funds.

Dr Sacheverell taken into cuſtody and impeached.

THE Queen's miniſtry, ſorely galled by the exploſion of the mine which had laid bare their iniquitous and ſiniſtrous deſigns, carried up to Parliament a heavy complaint againſt

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againſt Dr Sacheverell, whoſe ſermon they ſtigmatiſed with the epithet of ſeditious, and with having a tendency to incite the ſubject to rebel againſt the Sovereign and her government. Upon this accuſation, thus formally and authoritatively made, the Doctor was ordered to attend the Houſe on the 14th of December; when he was immediately decreed to be taken into cuſtody and ſolemnly impeached. The impreſſion made by his ſermon might have wore away; it might in time have been totally forgotten: but the Doctor's impriſonment called forth the people's reſentment: the public danger was magnified, and the national alarm redoubled. With this arbitrary and injudicious act of an expiring miniſtry, cloſed the year 1709.

TRANS-

TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE.

PART I.—BOOK IV.

Additional conceſſions of France diſdainfully rejected.—Trial of Dr Sacheverell.—France prevails at length on the States to name Gertruydenberg for holding freſh conferences.—Opening of the campaign in Flanders.—Progreſs towards a change of miniſtry.—Ineffectual efforts of Marlborough and his Ducheſs to keep in their connections.—Lord Sunderland diſmiſſed.—Imperial and Dutch miniſters remonſtrate on the meaſure.—Application of the Duke of Marlborough to the Court of St Germain.—Letter from the exiled Queen to Marlborough.—His letter to the Elector of Hanover.—Further changes in adminiſtration.—Reflections.—Progreſs of the war principally in Spain.—Battle of Alminara.—General Stanhope with 5000 Britiſh troops ſurrenders at diſcretion.—Battle of Villaviciosa.—Taking and evacuating of Gette.—Continued depredations on the Britiſh commerce.—Meeting of the new Parliament.—Fourteen millions and a half voted for the ſupplies, &c.—Surrender of the Ducheſs of Marlborough's places.

AT the moment when the earneſt ſolicitations of France were from the Britiſh throne inſultingly denominated "artifices

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1710. Additional conceſſions of France diſdainfully rejected.

" tifices to amuſe the allies with falſe ap-
" pearances and deceitful inſinuations of a
" deſire for peace;" ſtill more humiliating additional conceſſions of the French Monarch were ſcornfully rejected by the confederates. The petitioning Prince having been haughtily refuſed paſſports for commiſſioners to be ſent either to the Hague, or any other town in Holland and Flanders which the States thought fit to name, had been reduced to make the miniſter of a neutral power the organ of his humble ſupplications *. Uncommon pains muſt have been taken at that period, to obſtruct the channel of intelligence, and reſtrain the preſs, in order to keep thoſe circumſtances from the knowledge of the public; elſe a brave and generous nation, who, ſo far from lifting up a hoſtile hand againſt a proſtrate opponent, hold themſelves bound to tender him inſtantaneous aſſiſtance, would have been fired with indignation at this outrage on humanity and their own innate principles.

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

Happily

Happily the reign of deluſion was drawing to a cloſe; the Sovereign and the people were near touching the term of their deliverance. An unprincipled adminiſtration had worked themſelves into toils which threatened their extinction. The more they ſtruggled, the faſter they entangled themſelves. The greater were their efforts at overthrowing truth, the ſublimer it roſe in awful ſplendor. To impoſe upon the people with a falſe glare of ſolemnity, Weſtminſter-hall was fitted up at great expence, for the trial of the champion of religion and of the ſtate.

Trial of Dr Sacheverell.

On the 27th of February commenced a trial, on which the fate of the church of England, the Britiſh liberties, and the Sovereign's freedom, ſeemed to depend. In four diſtinct articles, charges were exhibited againſt Dr Henry Sacheverell, accuſed of having preached a ſermon, in which he had, in the firſt inſtance, maintained, "That "the neceſſary means for effectuating the "late revolution were odious and unjuſtifi-"able:" In the ſecond, "That the tole-

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" ration of Diſſenters was both unreaſon-
" able and unwarrantable:" In the third,
" That the Church of England was in dan-
" ger, under the Queen's adminiſtration:"
And laſtly, " That there were perſons in
" office who endeavoured to overturn the
" conſtitution; and that through the whole
" management of affairs, there was a mal-
" adminiſtration and corruption." The Doctor acknowledged himſelf the author of the ſermon, but denied the charge in general.

ALTHOUGH this voluntary confeſſion rendered the producing of witneſſes unneceſſary, yet from the defence of the accuſed aroſe ſuch polemical diſquiſitions, as produced violent debates among the Peers, and protracted the trial for three long weeks. During this time London exhibited a continued ſcene of diſorder and tumult. Immenſe crowds, ſhouting acclamations, attended the Doctor every day on his progreſs to and from Weſtminſter-hall into the Temple, where he reſided. The mob vented their rage on ſome meeting-houſes, threatened

threatened the Peers of the oppoſite party, and inſulted thoſe members of the Houſe of Commons who were moſt active in the proſecution. At length, by a majority of only ten voices out of one hundred and twenty-eight, "The articles exhibited by "the Commons were declared to have "been proved. The Doctor was ſuſpend-"ed from preaching for three years, and "his ſermon condemned to be burnt by "the hands of the common hangman." On the diviſion, the numbers for the queſtion were ſixty-nine, and thoſe againſt it fifty-nine *.

France prevails at length on the States to name Gertruydenberg for holding freſh conferences.

THE Court of Verſailles ſtill more ſanguinely and undeceitfully intent on procuring a peace, at all poſſible events, had not ceaſed to ſupplicate their High Mightineſſes to name a place for holding freſh conferences, and condeſcending to hearken to her moſt humble and ſubmiſſive offers. Gertruydenberg was at length the place appointed for the meeting of plenipoten-

* Records of the Trial.

tiaries.

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tiaries. Marechal d'Huxelles and the Abbé Polignac, miniſters of France, arrived at Moerdyke on the 9th of March. Audiences were conceded to them by Meſſ. Buys and Vander Duſſen, the Deputies of the States. A ſerious negotiation for peace was thereafter opened at Gertruydenberg the 20th of that month.

THE French Monarch not only offered "to acknowledge Charles III. as King of "Spain, but engaged to pay a million of "livres a-month to the allies, until Philip "ſhould be driven out of that kingdom. "He ſolemnly promiſed to withdraw all "ſuccours from his grandſon, not to ſend "him any future aſſiſtance, and expreſsly "to forbid any of his ſubjects to enliſt in "his ſervice. To the Emperor and the "Empire he ceded all Alſace for ever. He "offered to recogniſe the titles of the King "of Pruſſia and of the Elector of Hano-"ver; to acknowledge Queen Anne and "the Proteſtant ſucceſſion to the Britiſh "throne; to reſtore Newfoundland," (taken the year before by his pirates); "to "demoliſh

"demoliſh Dunkirk, and ruin its har-
"bour; and to ſend the Pretender out of
"his dominions. The States were to have
"the barrier ſpecified in their own preli-
"minaries: The Duke of Savoy all that
"the allies demanded for him. And, as a
"ſecurity for the performance of thoſe ar-
"ticles, he propoſed to deliver the forti-
"fied towns in French Flanders" (that is to ſay, one of the keys of his dominions) "into the hands of the allies." The Duke of Marlborough, to all thoſe unexceptionable offers, gave a ſign of diſapprobation, and they were rejected. The conferences were, however, held on for ſome days longer, when it was finally ſignified to the plenipotentiaries of France, that the allies would not recede from their determination of obliging Louis to expel himſelf his own grandſon out of Spain *.

Opening of the campaign in Flanders.

THE Duke of Marlborough, joined by Prince Eugene, having aſſembled his army near Tournay, entered the French

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

lines,

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lines, without oppoſition, in the firſt days in May, and formed the ſiege of Douay. The fortifications of this town were not remarkable for peculiar ſtrength; but they were reſolutely defended by 8000 men, who contrived to keep thoſe two Generals at bay till the 29th of June, and to thin their army conſiderably. Marechal de Villars preſented himſelf with his forces, in order, if poſſible, to relieve Douay; but finding that this object could not be effected without riſking a battle, the iſſue of which might leave the kingdom defenceleſs, he abandoned the place to its fate, and retired. This General uniformly purſued this plan throughout the remainder of the campaign, ſuffering the allies to waſte their force in conquering about forty ſquare miles of country, and ſacrificing the lives of 26,000 of their men, in taking ſucceſſively Bethune, Aire, and St Venan. Beſides the carnage of the allies before theſe places, the half of their army was, at the cloſe of the campaign, covered with wounds, and periſhing with diſeaſes. The garriſon of Ypres had moreover attacked and

and defeated Lord Athlone, who, with about 1100 men, eſcorted a convoy of military ſtores in boats along the river Lys. All his Lordſhip's infantry had been killed or taken priſoners, his cavalry routed, the ſtores and boats taken. The victors, after carrying away what was portable, ſet fire to the boats, and blew up the ſtore of powder. So tremendous proved the exploſion, that the neighbouring villages were overturned. The concuſſion was felt as far as St Quintin, at a diſtance of about fifty miles. By the opening of the ground under the boats, the Lys was ſeparated in two channels, and its navigation interrupted.

Progreſs towards a change of miniſtry.

WHILE Marlborough, with ſavage apathy, was engaged in his murderous warfare, the Queen, for the firſt time ſince her acceſſion, was preparing to aſſert her royal prerogative, in order to heal her people's and her own ſufferings. The miniſterial junto, by a daring over-ſtretch of their authority, ſupplied the weapons for their own diſcomfiture. Doctor Sacheverell, after the paſſing of his ſentence, went

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down into Wales. The people, in vaſt crowds, attended him on the road, with white cockades in their hats and gilt laurels. In every town through which he paſſed, the mayors and magiſtrates waited upon him in their robes. He was entertained at the charge of corporations, and hailed every where as the champion of his country. The miniſtry, enraged at this triumph over their perſecution, reſolved, in an extraordinary council, to miſuſe the Queen's name in endeavouring to repreſs this zeal of the people. Accordingly, the Earl of Sunderland, Secretary of State for the home department, took upon himſelf to write, on the 10th of April, an official letter to the Earl of Bradford, Lord Lieutenant of Shropſhire, in which he ſignified to him, "that her Majeſty had expreſs-
"ed her royal diſpleaſure at the riotous
"and ſeditious proceedings in his county,
"fomented and encouraged by Dr Henry
"Sacheverell, in breach of the public
"peace; and that it was her Majeſty's
"pleaſure, that his Lordſhip, and the
"gentlemen of the county, would appre-
"hend

" hend and proſecute the offenders, with " the utmoſt ſeverity of the law." Not content with diſpatching this letter, the Secretary of State cauſed it to be inſerted in the Gazette *. The people grew outrageous at this publication. The Queen, juſtly incenſed at this freſh abuſe of her name, diſclaimed having had any previous knowledge of the circumſtance. To ſoothe the Queen's reſentment, the miniſtry brought in the Earl of Shrewſbury, who had ably defended Sacheverell in his trial; and on the 15th of April, he was ſworn in Lord Chamberlain in the room of the Earl of Kent, who reſigned on being created a Duke. Still a more material change was portended. Lord Sunderland ſaw and felt that he could not long retain his office. The Duke of Marlborough was made acquainted with the lowering aſpect of the political atmoſphere. He wrote in conſequence to the Queen on the 20th of May, repreſenting " the very ill conſequence " that would reſult upon all affairs abroad,

Ineffectual efforts of Marlborough and his Duchess to keep in their connections.

* Annals, year 9th.

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" from his ſon-in-law being turned out of " her ſervice in the middle of a campaign, " and begging it, as a reward for all his " paſt ſervices, that ſhe would delay her " reſolution till the campaign was over *." The Ducheſs of Marlborough, on her part, moved heaven and earth to divert the impending blow. She wrote, ſhe prayed, and even humbled her proud ſpirit ſo far as to intreat Mrs Maſham to ſtand her advocate with the Queen. In one of her letters to her Majeſty, bearing date the 7th of June, " She beſeeches her, on her knees, " not to turn out Lord Sunderland, for " the ſake of Lord Marlborough, and for " the ſake of the public intereſt. She re- " calls to her memory the recollection of " paſt intimacies; and puts her in mind " of her letter about the Duke upon the " victory at Blenheim †." Unavailing, however, proved all the intreaties and re-

* Conduct of the Ducheſs of Marlborough, publiſhed by herſelf.

† Annals, year 9th.

preſentations

preſentations of both the Duke and his Ducheſs.

Lord Sunderland diſmiſſed.

On the 14th of June the ſeals were demanded from Lord Sunderland. The diſcontented party flew to the Bank at this news, withdrew their money from the ſtocks, and ſpirited up the Directors of the Bank to remonſtrate on the dangers to which public credit was expoſed by the change of her Majeſty's ſervants. The Duke of Marlborough, in the height of his vexation, prevailed upon the Emperor and the States to inſtruct their miniſters in London to make repreſentations to the Queen on the evil conſequences likely to attend the intereſts of the Grand Alliance upon the change of her miniſters. Count de Gallas the Imperial ambaſſador, and Vrybergen, the Dutch envoy to the Britiſh court, accordingly ſubmitted to her Majeſty "the jealouſies and ſuſpicions" agitating the confederates, at the indication of her diſpoſition to place the management of her affairs in the hands of a new ſet of ſervants, as well as the enemy's exultation at the

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the circumſtance. The Queen, ſenſible of the preſumptuous officiouſneſs of this foreign interference with the government of her internal affairs, condeſcendingly however returned for anſwer, "That whatever "change ſhe thought proper to make at "home, the Duke of Marlborough ſhould "be continued at the head of her armies."

Application of Marlborough to the court of St Germain.

FURTHER impelled by the keenneſs of his reſentment, Marlborough, on the 20th of June, "acquainted the Duke of Ber-"wick of his determination to reſign the "command of the army, unleſs, that by "retaining it, he could advance the views "of the Pretender: through his means, he "offered his ſervices to the court of St "Germain, and concluded by demanding "inſtructions*." Although very little faith was placed by that court in Marlborough's profeſſions; yet as, in his preſent diſpoſition, he might, if his advances were ſlighted, throw himſelf on the court of Hanover, the exiled Queen anſwered him, and

* From an original Letter.

incloſed

incloſed her letter to her ſon in Flanders, who tranſmitted it to the Duke by one of Marechal de Villars's trumpets.

Letter from the exiled Queen to the Duke of Marlborough.

In this letter, after expreſſing her joy that Marlborough continued firm in the promiſes which he had ſo often made to her huſband and her ſon, ſhe confeſſes her ſurpriſe to find, that he entertained thoughts of quitting his high command. "Your re-
"treat," ſhe ſays, "will render you uſeleſs
"to your friends, and an eaſy prey to your
"enemies. You are too large a mark
"to be miſſed by the ſhafts of malice.
"The ſafety of your opponents conſiſts in
"your ruin. They will reduce the army,
"where you have ſuch great influence.
"They will fill all the branches of the re-
"venue with their creatures. The credit
"of the new officers, the influence of their
"preachers, the weight of the treaſury,
"will not fail to return a parliament very
"different from the preſent. Throw not
"therefore away the means of ſupporting
"yourſelf, and of aſſiſting your friends.
"You are loſt if you quit your employ-
"ments.

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" ments. But there is great difficulty in " keeping them with dignity. Intereſt now " declares for your honour. You cannot " be in ſafety, without doing juſtice, nor " preſerve your greatneſs without diſchar- " ging your duty. The time is precious " to you, and important to my ſon. You " deſire us to apply to Mrs Maſham, the " new favourite of the Princeſs Anne. " How can we, my Lord, apply to a ſtran- " ger? Mrs Maſham owes us no obliga- " tions. She has neither pledged her faith, " nor promiſed her aſſiſtance. You have " repeatedly done both, my Lord; and " now it is in your power to place my ſon " in a condition to protect yourſelf *."

WHAT preciſe effect this well written letter had with the great man, beſides inducing him to retain his command, does not immediately appear. That the world, however, may be enabled to form a judgement of his conſiſtency in treachery, I will ſubjoin a long extract of another letter of his

* From an original Letter publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

to

1710. Letter to the Elector of Hanover.

to his Electoral Highneſs, dated the 13th of Auguſt 1710, when his rage had cauſe to be further inflamed. After profeſſing his attachment to his family, with which, ſays he, "I conſider thoſe of my country "and of all Europe to be inſeparably con- "nected. I hope the Engliſh nation" (he was not yet reconciled to the emphatic appellation of Britiſh), "will not permit "themſelves to be impoſed upon by the "artifices of Harley and his aſſociates. "Their conduct leaves no room to doubt "of their deſign of placing the pretended "Prince of Wales on the throne. We feel "too much already their bad intentions and "pernicious deſigns; but I hope to be able "to employ all my attention, all my "credit, and all my friends, to advance "the intereſts of the Electoral family, to "prevent the deſtructive counſels of a race "of men, who eſtabliſh principles and form "cabals, which will infallibly overturn the "Proteſtant ſucceſſion, and with it the li- "berty of their country and the ſafety of "Europe *."

* From another original Letter publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

AFTER having vented his ſpleen in this double-dealing correſpondence, Marlborough, during the remainder of the campaign, continued to hold a friendly correſpondence with the Pretender. Several letters paſſed between him and Marechal de Villars, in which he made earneſt and frequent inquiries after the Prince's health, and expreſſed an anxious concern for the proſperity of his affairs. I forbear commenting on theſe atrocities; let them ſpeak for themſelves.

Further changes in adminiſtration.

THE removal of Lord Sunderland was but a prelude to a more general overthrow of adminiſtration. On the 8th of Auguſt, Lord Godolphin was ordered to break his ſtaff of Lord Treaſurer of Great Britain. The treaſury was at the ſame time put in commiſſion; the firſt ſeat at the board was aſſigned to the Earl of Powlet, but the principal conduct of affairs was entruſted to Mr Harley, who was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Earl of Rocheſter, maternal uncle to the Queen, ſucceeded Lord Somers as Preſident of the Council.

The

The Duke of Buckingham replaced the Duke of Devonſhire as Lord Steward of the Houſehold. Mr St John was made Secretary of State in the room of Mr Boyle. The great ſeal was reſigned by Lord Cowper, and given to Sir Simon Harcourt. Lord Oxford, formerly Admiral Ruſſell, yielded the place of firſt commiſſioner of the admiralty, (which but a few months before had been put in commiſſion). The immoral and impious Lord Wharton, was removed from the government of Ireland, to the great comfort of the religious and continent in that kingdom. On the 21ſt of September Parliament was diſſolved, and the new one appointed to meet on the 25th of November following. Thus was the court completely cleared of all the once formidable party. Marlborough alone retained the command of the army, as the Queen had intimated to the Imperial and Dutch miniſters, but under ſo cloſe an inſpection, as to be reſtrained from executing any of his dark projects. From this period, Anne may properly be ſaid to have begun to reign. Hitherto ſhe had languiſhed in the moſt

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degrading dependence; ſubjected to the caprice, inſolence, and galling yoke of the moſt ambitious and greedy tyrants. Such had been the evidence of her captivity, during upwards of eight years, that ſhe always trembled at the approach of either the Duke or Ducheſs of Marlborough, and never had preſumed to vent her complaints, but by ſtealth and in ſecret *. One of her firſt ſteps, on recovering her freedom of agency, was to diſpatch the Earl of Rivers as her ambaſſador to the court of Hanover; to aſſure the Princeſs Sophia and the Electoral family, that the changes in her adminiſtration would in no ſhape prejudice the acts paſſed for ſecuring the ſucceſſion in the Proteſtant line. Her new principal ſervants took this occaſion for tranſmitting proteſtations of their zeal and devotion for the preſumptive ſucceſſor of their miſtreſs. And notwithſtanding what has been advanced to the contrary, I have both ſtrong reaſon to believe, and confidence to maintain, that the Sovereign's aſſurances, and moſt of her

Reflections.

* Atteſted by innumerable and authentic documents, already before the public.

ſervants

ſervants proteſtations were thoroughly ſincere. For the purity of the firſt, I found my argument on the Queen's avowed piety, her attachment to the Church of England, and her love for her country. She never had in contemplation to leave her throne to a Roman Catholic. She had a predilection for her own family; and very unamiable would her character appear without it. She had laboured to perſuade her brother to embrace the religion of her ſubjects; but deſpaired of ſucceeding. She unqueſtionably had a deſire to ſerve him, but he put it out of her power; ſhe lamented the tenaciouſneſs of his infatuation, and regretted that he choſe to exclude himſelf. Amply remunerated by the ſatisfaction of having liberated his royal miſtreſs, and ſecured the conſtitution, the Duke of Hamilton only accepted for himſelf the Lord Lieutenancy of the county Palatine of Lancaſter: emoluments had for him no temptation.

Progreſs of the war principally in Spain.

LET us now return to the tranſactions on the Continent. The Elector of Hanover, juſtly

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juſtly diſguſted at having had for two campaigns to head troops in tatters, badly armed and worſe fed, refuſed this year to take the command of the Imperialiſts.

THE Duke of Savoy, ſtill out of humour with the Emperor, declined taking the field in perſon. His troops under Count Thawn were, by the vigilance and activity of the Duke of Berwick, prevented from entering Dauphine, on the frontiers of which they kept hovering to little purpoſe.

IN Spain, the rival Kings alternately ſuffered defeats; but at the cloſe of the campaign, the advantages were conſiderably in favour of Philip V. This laſt, in the beginning of May, took the field in perſon with an army entirely compoſed of Spaniards. On the 15th of that month, he croſſed the Segra and laid ſiege to Balaguera in Catalonia; but on the apprpach of Count Stahremberg, he retired to Lerida, where he waited for reinforcements. King Charles, in the mean time, deſirous to meet his competitor in the field, joined his army near

near Balaguera, in the commencement of June. Philip, equally anxious to bring the conteſt to a deciſion, repaſſed the Segra. The two armies met in the neighbourhood of Almenara. They attacked each other with great fury; but in the firſt charge, Philip's cavalry was driven from the field. He was forced to retreat with his crippled army, and to abandon his artillery with a part of his baggage. His loſs in men was ſo inconſiderable, that, under the cannon of Lerida, he collected 17,000 of them. To cover Caſtile, he paſſed the Cinca, and directed his march towards Saragoſſa. He gave the command of his army to the Marquis de Bay, whom he had recalled from Eſtramadura. Stahremberg, in the confidence of his firſt ſucceſs, eagerly ſought for an opportunity of engaging the enemy. The Marquis de Bay, with as much caution, ſtrove to avoid an action. The ſuperior ſkill of the allied General overcame the circumſpection of the other. The Spaniards, in this ſecond rencounter, loſt 3000 men; but ſaved their baggage and artillery, and retreated in diſorder to Tudela.

Battle of Almenara.

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dela. The Britiſh troops under General Stanhope bore the principal ſhare in a victory, which promiſed to decide the fate of that monarchy. From the field of battle, the allies marched ſtraight to Madrid, which Philip was forced to evacuate a ſecond time, and remove with his court to Valladolid. The religious enthuſiaſm of the Caſtilians ſerved his cauſe better than his arms had done. Moreover, their natural attachment to Philip increaſed with his misfortunes, while their averſion to Charles redoubled with his ſucceſſes. The one had been the choice of their late expiring monarch, the other was forced upon them by heretics. Under former arbitrary reigns of the Houſe of Auſtria, they had languiſhed, for near two centuries, under the oppreſſive yoke of tyranny; during ten years of the perturbated reign of this Prince of the Houſe of Bourbon, they had enjoyed as much felicity, as the reſtleſs ambition of foreign powers would ſuffer them. This people ſurely had natural rights in common with the reſt of mankind, and ſhould not have been precluded from exerciſing them in the election

election of their own Sovereign. Theſe conſiderations, it is feared, had not been duly pondered. General Stanhope, who took poſſeſſion of the capital, was, moreover, better calculated to overcome an enemy in the field, than to conciliate the repugnance of the vanquiſhed, by a wiſe and moderate government. His army was permitted to live at diſcretion in Madrid, to raiſe heavy and private contributions on the inhabitants, and, what muſt have appeared atrocious and ſacrilegious in the eyes of the Caſtilians, to plunder the churches of their precious vaſes and ſacred utenſils; nay, to expoſe them publicly for ſale, in open deriſion of the mode of worſhip eſtabliſhed in that country. Count Stahremberg did not treat with more moderation the other diſtricts which he occupied. The plunder and devaſtation of the rich kingdom of Caſtile was ſo immenſe and immoderate, and created ſuch a dearth of proviſions, that the country could not afford ſubſiſtence for 17,000 men, the number of which his whole army was compoſed.

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THE Duke of Vendôme, in this extremity, flew to the relief of Philip with thirty-five battalions and twenty-eight ſquadrons, whom the unenterpriſing Count Thawn permitted the Duke of Berwick to detach from his army in Dauphiné. The Caſtilian ſpirit was ſo rouſed at the enormities of Charles's Generals, that from every ſide the nobles flocked, with numerous bands of their retainers, to the ſtandard of Philip. Before the end of October, Vendôme was at the head of 30,000 men. Another army under the Duke of Noailles, aſſembling in Rouſſillon, were preparing to enter Catalonia, where Charles had already taken ſhelter. Diſſenſions among the allies, occaſioned by quarrels about plunder, tended to add to their conſternation. Their forces were retreating towards Catalonia for the defence of Charles. For the convenience of ſubſiſtence, as well as on account of their diſagreement, they were marching in two ſeparate bodies. Stahremberg with 12,000 men led the advance, and Stanhope with his 5000 Britiſh was bringing up the rear. The latter imprudently halted

ed for refreſhment at Brihuega, a ſmall fortified town in New Caſtile. He had ſcarce entered the place, when it was ſurrounded by the Duke of Vendôme, who had ſwam acroſs the Tagus with all his cavalry. After as vigorous a reſiſtance as his ſituation would admit, General Stanhope, with his whole party, was compelled to ſurrender at diſcretion.

General Stanhope, with 5000 men, ſurrenders at diſcretion.

Count Stahremberg receiving advice of Stanhope's difficulty, returned to his aſſiſtance with the whole of his own advanced party. By this movement, he precipitated himſelf into irretrievable embarraſſments. He came too late to ſuccour the Britiſh, and advanced too far to be able to retreat with ſafety. Vendôme went to meet him at Villaviciosa, two leagues diſtant from the ſcene of Stanhope's misfortune. Stahremberg ſtrove in vain to avoid an action; he was forced to it. The battle was obſtinate, fierce, and bloody. All that could be expected from the valour and experience of a conſummate General, was on that day performed by Stahremberg. After his ar-

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my had been routed, he defended himſelf in the midſt of a ſingle ſquadron, till night put a period to the conflict, and enabled him to effect his retreat. Three thouſand of his men were killed in this action, and as many were taken priſoners. Twenty pieces of cannon, two mortars, ſome waggons of proviſions and ammunition, fell into the hands of Vendôme. The Duke of Noailles penetrated a conſiderable diſtance into Catalonia. The Marquis de Bay, beſides obtaining ſome ſucceſſes in Eſtramadura, and preventing the junction of the Portugueſe with Count Stahremberg, extended his ravages into the very heart of Portugal, levying every where in that kingdom heavy contributions.

Taking and evacuating of Cette.

THE fleets during this ſummer were employed in tranſporting feeble ſuccours to Catalonia and Portugal. To carry on a ſemblance of annoyance to the enemy, that of Great Britain, under the command of Sir John Norris, united itſelf with the Dutch fleet, commanded by Admiral Someldyke; and in concert, they reſolved to make

make a deſcent upon the coaſt of Languedoc. On the 20th of July, they ſailed in company from Barcelona, and on the 24th preſented themſelves before Cette, a ſea-port town, noted only for being at the head of the famous canal uniting the two ſeas, which town they entered the next day. On the firſt alarm of the enemy's deſcent, the Duke de Noailles marched from Rouſſillon with 2000 dragoons, each carrying a foot-ſoldier behind him. The confederates waited not for his arrival; they reimbarked their troops and retired. This mighty expedition formed the whole of the maritime enterpriſes during this year. While this exploit, unworthy the naval powers who performed it, was planning and executing, the French, in their ſwift-ſailing frigates and privateers, were retaliating, with a vengeance, on the Britiſh and Dutch commerce. Few loaded veſſels eſcaped from their cruiſers. So uncommon were the loſſes ſuffered this year by the Britiſh trade, that the merchants, in a body, carried a complaint of their grievances to the Board of Admiralty.

Continued depredations on the Britiſh commerce.

Lord

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Lord Orford and his colleagues at that Board told them, "That the whole navy "was employed in carrying ſuccours to "Spain, and in keeping open an uninter- "rupted communication with the army "in Flanders." After giving this plauſible excuſe for leaving the trade expoſed to unchecked depredations, his Lordſhip ſent in his reſignation, and withdrew from further concern in maritime affairs. The Dutch too, after this expedition, ſo far from uniting their naval forces with the Britiſh, ſullenly reſented the changes which the Queen had made in the internal departments of her government; moſt heartily repenting, that they had let ſlip the opportunity of reſtoring peace to Europe, to the immenſe advancement of their own private intereſts.

Meeting of the new parliament.

WITH an infelt ſatisfaction, to which ſhe had long been a ſtranger, the Britiſh Sovereign met her new Parliament on the 25th of November. Having approved the Commons choice of Mr Bromley for their Speaker, her Majeſty delivered from the throne

throne a ſpeech, which appears to have conveyed her genuine ſentiments. In an audible voice, with a diſtinct articulation, with a countenance beaming majeſtic complacency, unembarraſſed and unconſtrained, after having lamented that the ſituation of affairs on the continent required her proſecution of the war with vigour, eſpecially in Spain, and obliged her to demand ſupplies ſuitable to the exigence, that ſhe might be enabled to conclude an honourable and permanent peace, ſhe added, with an emphaſis indicative of a guileleſs and generous heart, "That to re-
"move every jealouſy that might ariſe in
"the nation, ſhe was reſolved to ſet forth
"her intentions plainly; and to aſſure her
"Parliament, that ſhe was determined to
"ſupport and encourage the Church of
"England; to preſerve the conſtitution
"according to the Union; to maintain the
"indulgence allowed by law to ſcrupulous
"conſciences; and that to tranſmit effec-
"tually theſe benefits to poſterity, ſhe was
"reſolved to employ none, but ſuch as
"were heartily for the Proteſtant ſucceſ-
"ſion

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"ſion in the Houſe of Hanover*." To this truly patriotic ſpeech, unanimous and moſt dutiful addreſſes of thanks were immediately returned by both Houſes of Parliament.

ALTHOUGH the Queen in her ſpeech had indicated a deſire for peace, yet her miniſters were attentive to procure large ſupplies, as the ſure means, by empowering them to act vigorouſly, of terminating with advantage and dignity the long-endured calamities of war. On inſpecting the public accounts, the finances of the nation had appeared in the moſt deplorable ſtate. Immenſe ſums, in the different departments, were in arrear, without any proviſion. For the navy alone, which had afforded ſo little protection to a ruined trade, more than five millions were due. The

* For the matter of this ſpeech, I appeal to the Journals of Parliament; and for the manner in which it was delivered, to all the publications of that time, which particularly remark, that on all former public occaſions, uncommon dejection had overſhadowed her countenance.

incumbrances

incumbrances of the ordnance and army amounted to more than one million five hundred thouſand pounds. It was requiſite to provide for theſe deficiencies, as well as for the exigencies of another campaign. The miniſter moreover ſuggeſted the neceſſity of erecting new churches, of indemnifying the inhabitants of St Chriſtopher and Nevis from the damages which they had ſuffered by a French invaſion, and of paying to the Elector of Hanover the ſum of L. 9375, which had remained due to him ſince the death of the late King. To anſwer theſe different demands, Parliament granted to the miniſter the ſum of fourteen millions five hundred thouſand pounds. In this grant were included L. 350,000 for erecting new churches, an indemnification of L. 100,000 to the inhabitants of St Chriſtopher and Nevis, and the ſum due by the late King to his Electoral Highneſs *. Such were the returns made by a generous people to a gracious

Fourteen millions and a half granted to the miniſter.

* Journals of Parliament.

PART I. BOOK IV. 1710.

Sovereign, ſincerely ſolicitous for the reſtoration and permanency of their happineſs! Such alſo was the favourable reception given by the public to miniſters on whom reſted their future hopes:—in them unlimited confidence was repoſed.

ALTHOUGH the Duke of Marlborough had ended his military operations in Flanders during the firſt week in November, yet he did not reviſit Britain until the laſt days in December. He was benignly received by a Sovereign, in whoſe gentle boſom reſentment gained no admittance. His friends in the Houſe of Peers introduced a motion, to return public thanks to his Grace, for the ſignal actions which he had atchieved during the late campaign. The brave Duke of Argyle, who had peculiarly witneſſed, and had glorioufly contributed to that commander's ſanguinary triumphs, ſtood up, and with manly ſcorn oppoſed and prevented the meaſure. Marlborough, deſpairing of re-eſtabliſhing his Ducheſs

1710. Surrender of the Duchess of Marlborough's places.

Duchess in her former authority with the Queen, carried a surrender of all her places to the foot of the throne. Thus ended a year, in which the Guardian Genius of Britain providentially interposed to protect her threatened liberties.

TRANSACTIONS
DURING THE REIGN OF
QUEEN ANNE.

PART II.—BOOK I.

First steps towards a pacification.—Parliamentary investigations into the causes of the deficiencies in former grants, and of abuses in Spain.—Lord Peterborough applauded, and Lord Galway, with the late ministers, censured.—Guiscard's attempt on the life of Mr Harley.—Death of the Emperor.—Creation of the South-Sea Company.—Campaign in Flanders, Germany, Savoy, and Spain.—Naval operations.—Death of Lord Rochester, and creation of Lord Oxford.—Mission of Mr Prior.—Preliminaries interchangeably signed.—Creation of the Duke of Hamilton a British Peer.—Buys delivers in passports for the French plenipotentiaries, and names Utrecht.—Dangerous designs of the States.—Projected insurrection in London.—Plot revealed by Plunket.—Pretender's letter to the Queen.—Marlborough's correspondence with the court of St Germain.—His arrival in London with Baron Bothmar.—Liberality of the Duke of Marlborough.—Parliament meets.—The Duke of Hamilton's patent rejected.—Motives influencing Marlborough on that occasion.—The causes of his conduct traced out.—Report of the commissioners of public accounts.—Dismission of Marlborough, and his traiterous project defeated.—Creation of twelve new Peers.

THIS year opened with auspicious prognostics of a general pacification. Britain

PART II. BOOK I.

1711. Firſt ſteps towards a pacification.

tain panted for peace with no leſs ſecret eagerneſs, than France publicly avowed. Her motives for anxiouſly deſiring repoſe were moſt urgent. A ruined commerce, oppreſſive debts, reſources impaired, if not exhauſted, were cogent reaſons to impel an upright and wiſe miniſter to make ſome indirect advances towards an object ſo momentous. Accordingly means were ſought after, for hinting to the court of Verſailles the probability of her obtaining from a ſiſter power thoſe bleſſings, which ſhe had craved in vain from imperious and overbearing republicans. The Earl of Jerſey recommended for that purpoſe an Abbé Gaultier, chaplain to his Counteſs, who was a Roman Catholic, as a man whoſe diſcretion might be truſted, and whom inſignificance would ſecure from ſuſpicion. The Earl was impowered to give this Abbé verbal inſtructions, and diſpatch him to France. Gualtier left London during the firſt week in January, and carried the welcome tidings to Verſailles. They were joyfully received by Louis XIV. whoſe miniſters declared to Gaultier, that it was no longer their maſter's intention to demand peace

peace at the hands of Holland, but that he would gladly treat with Great Britain; happy, through her interpoſition, to obtain the ſubſtantial comforts of a laſting tranquillity.

Parliamentary inveſtigation into the cauſes of deficiencies in former grants, and of abuſes in Spain.

DURING the miſſion of this ſecret emiſſary, Parliament entered into an inveſtigation of the cauſes which had produced ſo conſiderable a deficiency in the former grants, and into the reaſons which had moved the late miniſters to keep thoſe circumſtances concealed. Extreme negligence, to ſay nothing worſe, was diſcovered to have attended the conduct of the late Lord Treaſurer in particular; and all the excuſe pleaded for not bringing forward a true ſtatement of the revenue was, "apprehen- "ſions of ſlackening the public ardor for "the prolongation of war." Intelligence was at the ſame time received of the recent diſaſters in Spain. By her Majeſty's command, it was communicated to both Houſes. From examinations into civil miſconduct, Parliament paſſed to the reviſal of military errors. It came out, that ſince the recall

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

recall of Lord Peterborough from his command in Spain, the diſcipline of the Britiſh troops had ſuffered a ſhameful relaxation; that violence, rapine, and exceſſes of every denomination, had been with impunity exerciſed over the inhabitants; and that our miſcarriages in that country were to be imputed both to the miſbehaviour of the commanders, and the ſupineneſs of the miniſters who had employed them. The conduct of the Earl of Peterborough was applauded, and that of the Earl of Galway cenſured. The Peers, by an addreſs, required her Majeſty to free the cabinet-council from their oath of ſecrecy, to enable them to probe the miſchief to its ſource. They concluded their examinations with paſſing a vote, "That the late miniſtry were "highly blameable in their neglect of the "war in Spain, and that, by adviſing it "to be carried on offenſively, they had "been the cauſe of the loſs of the battle "of Almanza, and of ſucceeding misfor-"tunes *."

Lord Peterborough applauded; Lord Galway, with the late miniſtry, cenſured.

* Journals of Parliament.

1711. Guiſcard's attempt on the life of Mr Harley.

A French adventurer, aſſuming the name of Marquis de Guiſcard, having taken refuge in England, had ſo far inſinuated himſelf with the former miniſtry, that he had been intruſted with the command of a regiment, which had been deſtroyed at Almanza. He had ſince, by the means of Secretary St John, procured from the Queen a penſion of L. 500, which proving inſufficient to ſupport his extravagance, he reſolved to reconcile himſelf with France, by betraying the meaſures of the Britiſh cabinet. He had in conſequence formed a correſpondence to that effect with a banker in Paris, of the name of Moreau. As a cover to his baſe deſign, he ſent his letters incloſed to the Earl of Portmore, commanding in Portugal. The Earl, ſuſpecting ſome treachery, opened the packet, and finding its contents to be dangerous intelligence, tranſmitted it to Mr Harley, through the hands of his Counteſs. On the 8th of March, the pretended Marquis was apprehended in St James's Park, and carried to the Cock-pit before a committee of the council. Having, unperceived, poſſeſſed

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

himſelf of a pen-knife, he ſprung furiouſly on Mr Harley, and ſtabbed him in the breaſt. The point accidentally meeting with a bone, broke ſhort near the handle, at the firſt blow. Unadverting to this circumſtance, the aſſaſſin was redoubling his ſtabs, when Mr St John, ſtarting up from his ſeat, drew his ſword and wounded him in ſeveral places. The meſſengers ruſhed in at the noiſe, ſeized Guiſcard, and conveyed him to Newgate, where he died of his wounds. Mr Harley's wound proved but ſlight; yet the attempt on his life was productive of an addreſs from Parliament to her Majeſty on the occaſion, extremely flattering both to the Queen and her miniſter. On his recovery, and entering the Houſe of Commons, the Speaker complimented him in the name of the members.

Death of the Emperor.

HAD not the Britiſh cabinet been previouſly inclined to peace, the death of the Emperor in the ſmall-pox, and his diſpoſition in favour of his brother Charles III. whom he left ſole heir of all his dominions, would have evinced the abſolute neceſſity of putting

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a ſpeedy end to a war, threatening now to overſet the balance of power, which it had been undertaken to maintain. Soon after this event, the court of London received a memorial from that of Verſailles; wherein, except the ceſſion of Spain to the Houſe of Auſtria, which could not now be demanded, ample and reaſonable conceſſions were offered to Great Britain, the States, and the other confederated powers. The terms tendered by Philip V. were equally advantageous to the Britiſh, as thoſe promiſed by Charles III. The miniſtry tranſmitted the memorial to the States for their approbation. Meanwhile her Majeſty, by an extraordinary meſſage, acquainted her Parliament "with the death of the Emperor, "and with her intentions of endeavouring "to make the election fall upon his bro-"ther the King of Spain; intimating at "the ſame time her hopes to be ſoon in "a condition to put a happy end to the "war, by a ſtable and honourable peace." The Parliament returned for anſwer, "That "they would ſupport her Majeſty in all her

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

" meaſures for reſtoring the public tran-
" quillity *."

Creation of the South Sea Company.

THE miniſter having aſſigned adequate funds on judicious impoſts, for the diſcharge of the debts left by his predeceſſor on the different departments without any proviſion, propoſed on the 2d of May a moſt alluring project to the Commons, for ſatisfying at once all the public debts, and making good future deficiencies of ſupplies. The whole unfunded debt was to be thrown into one ſtock, bearing an intereſt of 6 per cent. to be placed on funds, which were to remain untouched and unproductive, for the ſpace of five years; during which time, Parliament was to engage to pay the annual accruing intereſt, and grant to the proprietors of this ſtock, the monopoly of an intended trade to the South Seas, on the coaſt of Peru. The poſſeſſors of navy-bills, and other public ſecurities, were to be incorporated for this purpoſe. This ſcheme was received with an aſtoniſhing eagerneſs by

* Journals of Parliament.

the

1711.

the Commons. It was adopted in its full extent without any heſitation.

Campaign in Flanders, Germany, Savoy, and Italy.

THE Duke of Marlborough, foreſeeing that he could not long retain his great command, ſhewed himſelf extremely deſirous to terminate his military career with ſome ſignal exploit. Marechal de Villars, ſtrongly poſted behind his lines at Arleux, diſappointed however his ſanguine wiſhes. He was compelled to reſt ſatisfied with the taking of Bouchain, after another tedious and moſt waſteful ſiege. The Imperial troops promoted the Emperor's election.

THE Duke of Berwick, in Provence and Dauphiné, effectually guarded the entrance into France on that ſide, againſt Count Thawn.

IN Spain, the Duke of Noailles confined his military operations to the taking of Gironne. Both parties ſhewed themſelves evidently fatigued with fruitleſs hoſtilities. Charles III. having been choſen Emperor, on

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

on the 1ſt October, ſeemed debarred from any future pretenſions to the crown of Spain.

Naval operations.

THE new miniſtry had planned an expedition againſt Quebec, which miſcarried through the commander's ignorance of the navigation of the river St Lawrence. The ſquadron employed on that ſervice was perſecuted with misfortunes. Ten tranſports, with 800 ſoldiers on board, were caſt away in the mouth of that river. The Admiral's ſhip, on her return, was accidentally blown up, in the road of St Helen's, with 400 ſeamen on board. The ſhattered remains of the Britiſh trade were, however, this year better protected againſt the uſual ravages of the enemy's cruiſers and privateers.

Death of Lord Rocheſter, and creation of Lord Oxford.

ON the 2d of May had happened the death of Lawrence Hyde Earl of Rocheſter, in an advanced age; a nobleman both intitled by his rank, and qualified by his abilities, to have originally guided the helm of the realm. To ſtrictneſs of principles, ſhining talents, and long experience in buſineſs, he joined a ſteady attachment to his country

country and her true intereſts. He had lived to ſee his predictions relative to Marlborough, and to his ſelfiſh views, amply verified; he had, however, the ſatisfaction of having contributed to deliver his niece from thraldom, and to preſerve the conſtitution from calamitous innovations. He therefore yielded up his laſt breath with perfect compoſure.

ON the 24th of this month, her Majeſty was pleaſed to confer on Mr Harley the dignity of peerage. He was created Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, and inveſted, at the ſame time, with the office of Lord High Treaſurer. Soon after this creation, the States having repreſented, that the memorial of France, communicated to them, was drawn up in terms too indefinite to be made a proper foundation for renewing the conferences for peace, Mr Prior was ſecretly ſent to Verſailles, accompanied by the Abbé Gaultier. The memorial which he was charged to preſent openly demanded "the acknowledgement of the Queen's ti-" tle, the ſucceſſion in the Proteſtant line, " and

Miſſion of Mr Prior.

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" and the demolition of Dunkirk. It " moreover ſecretly ſtipulated for a new " treaty of commerce; the ceſſion of Gib- " raltar and Port-Mahon; the negro-trade " in America; ſome towns, as refreſhing " places for the ſhips employed in tranſ- " porting ſlaves to that part of the world; " an extenſion to the ſubjects of Great Bri- " tain of thoſe advantages in commerce " granted by Spain to the moſt favoured " nation; with the reſtoration or ceſſion of " the iſland of Newfoundland, Hudſon's " Bay, and Streights." It was premiſed, that theſe laſt ſix articles were not on any account to be revealed, but with the mutual conſent of the contracting parties. Three conditions of a more general nature were mentioned, as abſolutely eſſential to the concluſion of peace, " an ample ſecuri- " ty that the Crowns of France and Spain " ſhould never be united on the ſame " head; that ſatisfaction ſhould be given " to all the allies, in their juſt and re- " ſpective demands; and that commerce " ſhould be thoroughly re-eſtabliſhed, and " permantly maintained. It further ſet " forth,

" forth, that ſufficient barriers ſhould be " granted for the Empire and the States, " on the ſide of the Rhine in Flanders; " that ſecurity ſhould be given to the " Dutch for their commerce; that the " ſtrong places taken from the Duke of " Savoy ſhould be reſtored; and that this " laſt ſhould be permitted to poſſeſs him- " ſelf of ſuch towns and diſtricts in Italy " as were particularly mentioned in the " treaties ſubſiſting between him and the " allies *." The powers given to Mr Prior were extremely limited; he was to make theſe demands, and return with a categorical anſwer. The French King finding him thus reſtricted, to accelerate the treaty, determined to ſend Monſieur Menager, as his own miniſter to London, with full powers and inſtructions. This miniſter, Mr Prior, and Abbé Gaultier, croſſed the ſea from Calais to Deal in company, where they were ſtopped by an over-zealous revenue officer, on ſuſpicion of inimical deſigns. They were ſoon liberated, in conſequence

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

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of a ſpecial order from the Secretary of State; but Mr Prior being known, the ſubject of his journey to France, and return with foreigners, created ſuſpicions of his errand, which were officiouſly communicated to the States, as well as to the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders.

Preliminaries interchangeably ſigned.

THE ſpecial preliminaries offered through Mr Prior to the French King were interchangeably ſigned by the Earl of Dartmouth and Mr St John on the part of Great Britain, and by Mr Menager on that of France, on the 27th of September. A copy of the articles was immediately and officially delivered to Count Gallas, the Imperial Ambaſſador in London, who publiſhed them in a newſpaper. This indecorum was reſented, and Count Gallas was forbidden to appear at court.

Creation of the Duke of Hamilton a Britiſh Peer.

ON the 10th of September the Duke of Hamilton had been created a Britiſh Peer, by the title of Duke of Brandon in the county of Suffolk, and Baron Dutton in Cheſhire. Lord Raby, who had been recalled

called from the Court of Pruſſia to replace the Viſcount Townſend at the Hague, was created Earl of Strafford, and ſent over to Holland with the preliminaries. The States, after ſeveral ſecret conferences, ſignified to the Britiſh ambaſſador, that the articles appeared ſo obſcure and indefinite, that it was apprehended they were ill calculated to be made the foundation of a formal treaty. For this reaſon, their High Mightineſſes had appointed Mr Buys their envoy extraordinary, to explain their ſentiments and fears on the ſubject to the Queen of Great Britain. Neither the repreſentations of the States, nor the intrigues of their envoy, operated, however, to ſhake her Majeſty's reſolution. She ordered her ambaſſador at the Hague to preſs the States to determine on a fit place for holding a general congreſs, and to expedite the neceſſary paſſports for the plenipotentiaries of France. The becoming firmneſs of the Queen and her miniſters produced the deſired effect upon the States. Buys at length delivered in paſſports, and ſignified to the Britiſh Court, that the city of

Buys delivers in paſſports for the French plenipotentiaries, and names Utrecht.

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Utrecht was appointed to hold a general congreſs on the 12th of January enſuing. But under this extorted compliance with her Majeſty's wiſhes, the blackeſt deſigns were harbouring againſt her government. The diſcontented of every denomination within her kingdom were ſtirred up to ſedition; the allied powers were alienated, and even the preſumptive heir alarmed and irritated. Buys, on his part, ſcarce obſerved common decency in inveighing againſt the Queen and her miniſters. He repreſented them as traitors to their country, enemies to the confederates, and penſioners of France. All malecontents, whether Britiſh or foreigners, were invited to his table. Every means which malevolence could ſuggeſt, or calumny invent, were openly practiſed to alienate the nation from the ſervants of the Crown *.

Dangerous deſigns of the States.

THE States, on the other hand, were not leſs virulent in reprobating the Queen's meaſures. They openly threatened to fit

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

out

out a fleet, for the purpoſe of aſſiſting the Elector of Hanover to ſtrike the ſceptre out of her hand. The common converſation in Holland was engroſſed with the meditated deſign of renewing the ſcene of 1688; and by making it more bloody, finally rendering it deciſive. But while theſe horrors were complacently anticipated by the Dutch, a more immediate blow was to be ſtruck. On the pretence that the Queen deſigned to withdraw her quota of aſſiſtance from the allies, the new Emperor, in concert with the States, propoſed to ſeize upon the Britiſh troops in Flanders. Theſe atrocious reſolutions were countenanced and encouraged from Britain by the diſcarded miniſtry and their adherents, who boldly and impudently affirmed, that the chief view of the adminiſtration was to reſtore the Pretender. They averred, that the Queen was already betrayed, that ſhe was declining in her health, and only kept alive by cordials and ſtrong medicines. They therefore ſtrenuouſly urged the neceſſity of the preſence of the Elector and his ſon in the kingdom, to

ſecure

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

ſecure the Proteſtant ſucceſſion. In order to increaſe the univerſal conſternation, an inſurrection was to be excited in the capital, during an expenſive proceſſion to be exhibited on the approaching 5th of November, for burning the Pope, the Devil, and the Pretender. Count Gallas, at the deſire of the conſpirators, had written to Prince Eugene of Savoy to croſs the ſea without delay, and contrive to be at hand, ready to make his entry into London on that very day; when, under the colour of paying peculiar reſpect to that diſtinguiſhed General, the party were to meet the Prince with 2000 horſe, eſcort him in, and ſpirit up the mob to outrages *.

Projected inſurrection in London.

THROUGH a ſignal interpoſition of Providence, the moſt dreadful calamities were averted. The helliſh plot was unravelled and guarded againſt, by the immediate ſeizure of the coſtly figures prepared to be carried through the city. An Iriſh Jeſuit of the name of Plunket, educated at Vien-

Plot revealed by Plunket.

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

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na, reſided in London as a ſecret emiſſary in the intereſts of the Pretender. He was in habits of intercourſe with Count Gallas, and of ſtrict intimacy with his ſecretary. Plunket having perceived the Count's dejection, on account of his being proſcribed the court, had endeavoured to gain him over to the intereſts of his maſter. Not ſucceeding in his ſcheme, he had reſolved, by alarming his fears, to gain his favour and penetrate his views. He ſoon had diſcovered his reliance on the diſcarded party, and with ſeeming confidence revealed to him the near proſpect there was of an alliance between Charles XII. of Sweden and the excluded Prince, by a double marriage with their reſpective ſiſters. He had thrown out artfully, that the northern hero, with a proſpect of eventually ſucceeding to the Britiſh throne, was to aſſiſt the Pretender with a Proteſtant army; that troops could eaſily be tranſported from Sweden to Scotland, where he could as eaſily be eſtabliſhed. The bait was greedily ſwallowed. The ambaſſador carried this intelligence to the diſcontented, whom it alarmed

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ed infinitely. Application was inſtantaneouſly made to the court of Hanover, for an agent to that of London of a more daring ſpirit than the Baron de Kryenberg, the Electoral reſident, poſſeſſed. Plunket, by the means of his friend the Count's ſecretary, having been informed of the deſigns hatching againſt government, and, as he concluded, againſt the intereſts of his Maſter, had dexterouſly procured copies of all the late diſpatches of the ambaſſador to Vienna and to the States-General. Aſſiſted by Mr Penn, the famous Quaker, he gained admittance to Lord Oxford, imparted to him his diſcoveries, and placed the papers in his hands. Thus was the miniſter enabled, not only to fathom the ſentiments of the confederates, but effectually to guard againſt their inimical deſigns. Beſides ſeizing the figures prepared for the 5th of November, every precaution was taken to prevent any conflagration on that day, and defeat the machinations of the internal foe *.

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

BESIDES

BESIDES the innumerable vexations thus given to the Queen, attempts had been made to diſtract her councils, by ſtimulating the excluded Prince to write to her. After expatiating upon the ties of nature linking them together, he recalled to her memory the promiſes which ſhe had made to their common parent. "To you, Madam," ſaid he in his letter, "and to you alone, "I wiſh eventually to owe the throne of "my fathers. The voices of God and of "nature are loud in your ear; the pre- "ſervation of your family, the prevention "of unnatural wars, the proſperity of our "country, combine to require you to re- "ſcue me from affliction, and yourſelf from "miſery. Though reſtrained by your dif- "ficult ſituation, I can form no doubt of "your preferring a brother, the laſt male "of an ancient line, to the remoteſt rela- "tion we have in the world. Neither you "nor the nation have received any injury "at my hands; therefore, Madam, as you "tender your own honour and happineſs, "as you love your family, as you revere "the memory of your father, as you re-

Pretender's letter to the Queen.

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" gard the welfare and ſafety of a great " people, I conjure you to meet me, in a " friendly way of compoſing our differ- " ence. The happineſs of both depends on " your reſolution. You will deliver me " from the reproach which invariably fol- " lows unfortunate princes, and render your " own memory dear to poſterity *."

WHATEVER emotions this pathetic epiſtle had cauſed in the Queen, they had remained buried in her breaſt. No anſwer whatever had been returned. The fiend Marlborough had ſeized the circumſtance of her ſilence, to inſtigate the young Prince to revenge, and induce him to animate his partiſans, both in and out of Parliament, to ſet their faces againſt the Queen's meaſures.

Marlborough's correſpondence with the court of St Germain.

IN a ſeries of correſpondence with the court of St Germain, while this year in Flanders, Marlborough ſignifies his unalienable attachment to the Pretender, (whom he calls

* Already publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

his

his King); talks of the payment of the exiled Queen's dowry, (which, five years before, his accomplice the late Lord Treaſurer had abſolutely engaged to pay, and had ever after evaded performing. But let facts ſpeak for themſelves. Theſe were his expreſſions: "I regret that I am not likely "to be employed in concluding the peace, "as in that caſe I might have done eſſen- "tial ſervice to the Old Cauſe. I conſider "the payment of the dowry, as a great "point towards re-eſtabliſhing the exclu- "ded line. The eyes of the people will be "opened; they will ſee their intereſt in re- "ſtoring their King. His cauſe has gain- "ed ſo much ground of late, that I ſolemn- "ly ſwear, it muſt come to a happy iſſue. "Both ſides will find themſelves obliged "to have recourſe to the excluded Prince, "for ſolid peace and internal happineſs, "not from any true principles of con- "ſcience and honeſty; for I do not believe "that either party is ſwayed by any." (His Grace judged of other men by himſelf.)

AGAIN, "The French King and his mi-

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

" niſters will ſacrifice every thing to their
" own views of peace. The Earl of Ox-
" ford and his aſſociates in office, to take,
" as uſual, the ground of their adverſaries,
" will probably inſiſt upon the King's re-
" tiring to Italy; but he muſt never con-
" ſent. He muſt neither yield to the
" French King, nor to the fallacious inſi-
" nuations of the Britiſh miniſtry, in a
" point which muſt inevitably ruin his
" cauſe. To retire to Italy, by the living
" God, is the ſame thing as to ſtab him
" to the heart. Let him take refuge in
" Germany, in ſome country on this ſide of
" the Alps. He wants no ſecurity for his
" perſon; no one will touch a hair of his
" head. I perceive ſuch a change in his
" favour, that I think it impoſſible but he
" muſt ſucceed. But when he ſhall ſuc-
" ceed, let there be no retroſpect towards
" the paſt; all that has been done ſince the
" Revolution muſt be confirmed: His bu-
" ſineſs is to gain all by offending none.
" As for myſelf, I take God to witneſs, that
" what I have done for many years, was
" neither from ſpleen to the Royal Family,
" nor

" nor ill-will to their cauſe, but to humble the " power of France; a ſervice as uſeful to the " King, as it is beneficial to his kingdom."

AND again, " Peace muſt certainly hap- " pen. The people ſtand in need of tran- " quillity on both ſides; the current of the " nation now ſeconds the views of the mi- " niſter. But peace and all that has been " done favours the cauſe of the King. God, " who rules above, ſeems viſibly to diſpoſe " all for the beſt. But neither Whigs nor " Tories can ever be depended upon as " parties. Their profeſſions are always dif- " ferent, but their views preciſely the ſame. " They both graſp at the poſſeſſion of " power: the prince who gives them moſt " is their greateſt favourite. As for me, I " have been treated unworthily; but God " has bleſſed me with a great deal of tem- " per and forbearance of mind. I have ta- " ken my reſolution to be quiet; I have " determined to wait my time; but if Har- " ley puſhes me farther, he ſhall know of " what metal I am made. As for the King's " affairs, occaſion only is wanted to my " zeal.

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

" zeal. God Almighty has placed matters
" in ſuch a train, that he muſt at any rate
" ſucceed. I know perfectly his ſiſter's
" diſpoſition of mind. She is a very honeſt
" perſon, eaſily won, and without difficulty
" ſwayed. She is extremely cautious, as
" ſhe is to the laſt degree ſubject to fear.
" At bottom, ſhe has no averſion to her
" brother's intereſts; but ſhe is one that
" muſt not be frightened. An external
" force would terrify her, and alienate the
" minds of the nation. Leave us to our-
" ſelves, and all your hopes will be crown-
" ed with ſucceſs *."

THESE letters were at different dates addreſſed to the Duke of Berwick. With this rhapſody of incoherent and apparently ſincere aſſeverations, he obtained the ſupport of the Pretender's friends in Britain, and was preparing, with this auxiliary force, to open his political campaign. In the ſame breath, he had made ſeveral proteſtations of fidelity to the Elector of Hanover, and with as much unconcern had appealed, for

* Alſo publiſhed before by Mr Macpherſon.

his

his truth, to the ſupreme and all-ſeeing Being. Thus armed at all points, he embarked for Britain with the Baron de Bothmar, miniſter of the Elector of Hanover, with whom he arrived in London during the firſt week in November. He ſpirited up the Baron to preſent a fulminating memorial to the Queen againſt the intended peace, which occaſioned violent ferments among the people, and ſo offended the Queen and her council, that had not the prudence of Lord Oxford prevented it, Bothmar would have been ſent out of the kingdom in the cuſtody of meſſengers.

His arrival in London with the Baron de Bothmar.

UPON receiving the report of the manœuvres of his party during his abſence, the great commander did not altogether approve their precipitancy. Inſurrections he wiſhed to keep as a reſerve. His object, in the mean while, was to place himſelf behind a ſtrong legal entrenchment, and thence ſecurely hurl forth his ſhafts. Having reviewed his parliamentary forces, he found that all his own friends and the Pretender's united were unequal in number to the

Liberality of the Duke of Marlborough.

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

" zeal. God Almighty has placed matters " in ſuch a train, that he muſt at any rate " ſucceed. I know perfectly his ſiſter's " diſpoſition of mind. She is a very honeſt " perſon, eaſily won, and without difficulty " ſwayed. She is extremely cautious, as " ſhe is to the laſt degree ſubject to fear. " At bottom, ſhe has no averſion to her " brother's intereſts; but ſhe is one that " muſt not be frightened. An external " force would terrify her, and alienate the " minds of the nation. Leave us to our- " ſelves, and all your hopes will be crown- " ed with ſucceſs *."

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Liberality of the Duke of Marlborough.

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the enemy's. Among the Commons, he ſtood not the ſmalleſt chance of ſucceſs. The Houſe of Peers promiſed more favourably; yet ſtill he had need of a few recruits. They were not to be obtained without money. He was not fond of making war at his own expence; but on this occaſion no other alternative preſented itſelf. The time too was preſſing, and called for promptitude of deciſion. After ſome heſitation, he yielded to neceſſity, and purchaſed eight voices *.

Parliament meets.

THE Parliament met ſoon after this provident acquiſition. On the 7th of December, her Majeſty, in her ſpeech from the throne, in adverting to the ſeditious conduct of the States, and that of their envoy, ſaid, "That notwithſtanding the arts of "thoſe who delight in war, both place and "time were appointed for opening the "treaty of a general peace: That her allies, "eſpecially the States, had expreſſed their "entire confidence in her conduct: That "her own chief concern was to perpetuate

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

"the

" the Proteſtant religion, and the laws and " liberties of the nation, by ſecuring the " ſucceſſion of the crown in the Proteſtant " houſe of Hanover: That ſhe was reſol- " ved to improve and enlarge their intereſt " in trade and commerce, by the advanta- " ges to be obtained by the peace: That " ſhe would not only endeavour to procure " all reaſonable ſatisfaction to her allies, " but unite them in the ſtricteſt engage- " ments to render permanent the public " tranquillity: That the beſt way to treat " with effect about a peace, was to make " an early proviſion for carrying on the " war. She therefore demanded the uſual " ſupplies; and concluded with earneſtly " recommending that unanimity, which " was neceſſary to the diſcuſſion of a buſi- " neſs of the laſt importance to all Europe " as well as to themſelves."

To this wiſe and moderate ſpeech, which muſt now be admired for its comprehenſive ſimplicity, and the rays of truth it darted forth, the thanks returned by the Lords, as amended by Marlborough's combination, imported, " That no peace could be

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"ſafe or honourable, ſhould Spain and the "Indies be continued to any branch of the "Houſe of Bourbon." For this amendment there appeared ſixty-one voices againſt fifty-five; and Marlborough's ſeductions were found to have extended even to the Queen's houſehold.

THE Commons, untainted by bribes, and unactuated by ſeditious views, unanimouſly voted their cordial thanks to her Majeſty, for her parental concern for the welfare and ſecurity of her realms, and promiſed to ſupport her in her meaſures for terminating the calamities of war. Not ſimply confining themſelves to verbal profeſſions, they were proceeding to vote the ſupplies with undiminiſhed zeal, when, fired with indignation at the odious conduct of Marlborough in the Upper Houſe, they ordered the Commiſſioners of public accounts to prepare and bring in the report of their proceedings, in order effectually to expoſe the baſeneſs of this formidable and factious leader *.

* Journals of Parliament.

IN

1711. The Duke of Hamilton's patent rejected.

In this colliſion of parties, it was determined to wound the Sovereign in the tendereſt point, by ſtriking at the root of her royal prerogative, and precluding from its exerciſe a meritorious ſubject, and her neareſt of kin in the realm. The Duke of Hamilton having claimed his ſeat, under her Majeſty's patent creating him a Britiſh Peer, the faction ſtood forth againſt his right. Their pretence was, that being one of the elected Peers of Scotland, and having already a ſeat in the Houſe by virtue of his election, agreeably to the terms of the Union; his ſitting, under any other title, would be an infringement of the act, which expreſsly reſtricted the Peers of Scotland to the aſcertained number of ſixteen. The prerogative of the Crown to grant honours was generally admitted; but it was contended, that it could not operate againſt an expreſs act of Parliament: That by the treaty of Union, all the Peers of Scotland became Peers of Great Britain, and enjoyed all the privileges of Peerage, except the two eſſential ones, of voting in the Houſe of Lords, and ſitting

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

in judgement on a Peer, unleſs they were duly elected, according to the full intent and meaning of that act. It was agreed, that her Majeſty might, by virtue of her prerogative, ennoble and confer the rights of Britiſh Peerage, in their fulleſt extent, on any ſubject or ſubjects of her realms, excepting thoſe who were already Peers of Scotland. Counſel were heard in behalf of the Duke of Hamilton and of the Scottiſh Peerage upon this extraordinary queſtion. The ſoundeſt arguments were oppoſed to this captious mode of reaſoning. It was urged, That, according to this maxim, the ancient Peerage of Scotland would be in a worſe predicament than any commoner of South or North Britain, who, by the act of Union, were alike participant in equal privileges: That ſo far from her Majeſty's patent operating againſt this act, it was entirely conformable to it: And that, on the contrary, the exceptions taken againſt the Noble Duke's patent were a direct breach of the Union, and an indignity offered to the Peerage of that ancient kingdom. The voice of reaſon and truth made

made no impreſſion on intellects warped by prejudice; nor could perſuaſive powers act on men blindly following the ſtandard of diſloyalty. A majority of five Peers out of one hundred and nine determined this important queſtion; fifty-ſeven being for it, and fifty-two againſt it *. So much did Anne feel herſelf intereſted in this deciſion abridging her prerogative, and ſuch was her anxiety on the Duke of Hamilton's account, that ſhe privately attended the debates in the Houſe of Peers. Full of juſt reſentment at the outrage upon their order, the Peers of Scotland collectively addreſſed the throne againſt this invidious reſolution. "They complained, that the "Union was infringed in their perſons; "they claimed the unlimited privilege of "Britiſh ſubjects, which they had not "yielded up; or, if that was denied "them, demanded to be replaced in their "original ſtate. They bound themſelves, "in any ſituation, ever to protect and de-"fend the prerogative of the Crown."

* Journals of Parliament.

The

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

The Queen, in her anſwer to this addreſs, "expreſſed her diſpleaſure at the deciſion "of the Lords." By an extraordinary meſſage to the Houſe of Peers, "She com- "plained of the diſtinction made with re- "gard to the Peers of Scotland, and de- "manded their advice concerning a ſub- "ject which at once touched the preroga- "tive of the Crown, and the privilege of "a part of her ſubjects *."

Motives influencing Marlborough on this occaſion.

THE motives influencing Marlborough on this occaſion, were deep reſentment againſt the Duke, for his having ſo largely contributed to his downfal, and an old rooted enmity between them, which the Duke, far from ever diſguiſing, had aggravated by the moſt contemptuous carriage towards him, having ever diſdained to hold with him the ſlighteſt intercourſe. The inveteracy of Marlborough had long lain brooding revenge, ſlily inwrapt within a veil of obſequiouſneſs, which in this inſtance enabled him (to uſe

* Gazettes of the time, and Journals of the Lords.

his

his own expreſſions) "to bring down the "Duke of Hamilton's pride." Yet, as virulently to hate or deſpiſe another perſon, is no commendable trait in an upright character, unleſs inbred depravity and deep-rooted vices had been early diſcovered to lie rankling in the compoſition of the abhorred object, upon the principle, that no alliance can ſubſiſt between virtue and vice; I am particularly called upon to account for the riſe and progreſs of the Duke of Hamilton's averſion and contempt for Marlborough. The former had been early in life, when Earl of Arran, much careſſed both by Charles II. and James his ſucceſſor. He was not unqualified for penetrating into the characters of the principal figures compoſing their courts. He knew that James, while Duke of York, having fallen in love with Arabella Churchill, had cauſed Winſtan Churchill her father to be knighted; that he had procured for him the lucrative poſts of commiſſioner of the court of claims in Ireland, and eldeſt comptroller of the board of green cloth; that moreover he had extended his ſpecial protection

The cauſes of his conduct traced out.

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

tection to his three ſons. George Churchill, afterwards admiral of the blue, and principal manager of the admiralty for the high admiral, he had originally placed in the navy, and had very early preferred to the command of a ſhip of war. Charles Churchill, another brother, afterwards lieutenant-general of the Britiſh forces, at the ſame time lieutenant-governor of the Tower, governor of Bruſſels and of Guernſey, alſo colonel of the ſecond regiment of guards, had been, by the Duke of York, placed in the army, and rapidly advanced to the command of a regiment, along with another brother, *John Churchill*, his favourite page. So eminently was John diſtinguiſhed by that Prince's ſingular affection, that he was kept conſtantly near his perſon. In his paſſage to Scotland, in the Glouceſter frigate, ſtranded on the Lemon and Ore in Yarmouth road the 5th of May 1682, the Duke of Hamilton certainly knew, that the Duke of York had ſhewn greater anxiety for the preſervation of John Churchill's life than for his own, and had made him firſt ſtep into his barge, before he would go in himſelf:

ſelf: That he had ſaved him in preference to his own brother-in-law the Honourable Mr Hyde, who had unfortunately periſhed in the frigate. A few months after, he had ſeen this John Churchill, at the preſſing inſtance of the Duke of York, raiſed to the dignity of Peerage, by the title of Lord Churchill of Eyemouth in the county of Berwick in Scotland, made a general officer, and intruſted with the command of the firſt regiment of dragoons. On James's acceſſion, he had ſeen Lord Churchill appointed ambaſſador to the Court of France, named one of the Lords of the bed-chamber, created an Engliſh Peer by the title of Baron Sandridge in Hertfordſhire, further complimented with the command of the third troop of life-guards, and his wife appointed firſt lady of the bed-chamber to the Princeſs of Denmark. He had likewiſe, with horror, ſeen this ſame Lord Churchill heading a plot on the 17th of November 1688, for ſeizing James, and delivering his perſon into the hands of the Prince of Orange. He was well appriſed, that on a debate a-

PART II. BOOK I. 1711.

mong the conſpirators about the modes of effecting this deſign, Lord Churchill, as a return for wealth and honours laviſhed on himſelf and his obſcure family, in return for the preſervation of his own life, had undertaken to execute the traitorous deed, and, in caſe of reſiſtance, had even bound himſelf to ſlay this very Sovereign, his own and family's kind benefactor *. He had ſeen him, prowling for his prey, repair to Saliſbury. He had happily ſucceeded to defeat his black purpoſe; and, in his diſappointment, he had ſeen him, caſting off the maſk, baſely deſert his bounteous Prince. He had been perſonally much wounded in his feelings, by his having ſeduced away his own boſom friend the Duke of Grafton. He had witneſſed another atrocious inſtance of his depravity, in his ſpiriting up his wily

* Deathbed confeſſion of Sir George Hewit, one of the conſpirators, at Mr Hatton Compton's lodgings in St Alban's Street. Rereſby's Memoirs further celebrate Captain Churchill, for having been the firſt who gave the fleet the example of defection.

conſort

conſort to rob the diſtracted Monarch of his beloved daughter, by conveying her to Northampton, far from the ſcene of deſolation, and precluding her from adminiſtering comfort to a deſponding parent in the height of his affliction. He had witneſſed the pungent grief of the forſaken Prince; had heard his doleful exclamations, and had ſeen the royal cheek moiſtened with tears, on receiving the cruel intelligence of his daughter's flight *. Twice, at his wicked inſtigation, had he himſelf ſuffered long and painful impriſonments. From that time the Duke of Hamilton had purſued Marlborough's inſidious tracks. He had marked the progreſſive ſtrides of his ambition to attain an uncontrouled power, and eſtabliſh in the land an odious oligarchy. He had darted forth, and had reſcued both his Sovereign and his country out of the monſter's fangs. Had he not cauſe to deteſt him? Was he

* Such was James's fondneſs for the Princeſs of Denmark, that he never in his life had thwarted her, not even on the ſcore of religion. *Vide* Clarendon's Diary.

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raſh or unfounded in his opinion of that character? From a plant ſo tainted, could any healing juices flow? This hideous picture will not appear overcharged, on reviſing the former part, or peruſing the ſequel of this work. Not a ſyllable is here ſet down but what has been variouſly recorded. I have not added to, or diminiſhed from a ſubject, handed down to poſterity under different ſhapes. I have been cautious and faithful in retracing the outlines, and ſcrupulouſly have confined myſelf to the pourtraying of features already too well known. The only merit by me claimed, is to have hung it out in full view, that all future parricides of their country, ſhould any monſters ſo depraved again exiſt, may behold and tremble.

Report of the commiſſioners of public accounts.

ON the 21ſt of December, the day after Marlborough had cauſed the Duke of Hamilton's patent to be rejected, the commiſſioners of public accounts made their report to the Houſe of Commons. It contained, among other charges of peculation, a ſpecific one againſt the Duke of Marlborough

rough and Cardonnel his ſecretary, of their having received large ſums of money from the contractors for bread and bread-waggons, who had ſupplied the army in Flanders, and of their having deducted two and one half per cent. from the daily pay of the foreign troops employed and paid by Great Britain. Theſe charges were ſubſtantiated by the oath of Sir Solomon Medina. The report was ordered to be printed; and, on the 30th of December, her Majeſty was pleaſed to declare in council, "That an information having been laid "before the Commons, againſt the Duke "of Marlborough, charging him with un-"warrantable and illegal practices, ſhe "thought fit to diſmiſs him from her ſer-"vice, that the charge might be impartial-"ly examined *."

Diſmiſſion of Marlborough, and his traitorous project defeated.

THIS equitable and ſpirited reſolution of the Queen had nearly precipitated the realm into the moſt deſolating ſtate. In a convocation of incendiaries, at which Count Gal-

* Minutes of Council.

las

TRANSACTIONS

DURING THE REIGN OF

QUEEN ANNE.

PART II.—BOOK II.

The twelve new Peers take their ſeats.—Arrival of the Prince of Savoy.—Interview between the Prince and Marlborough.—Plot in agitation.—Obſervations on the reſult of the conſultation.—The Duke of Hamilton's letter.—Admirable prudence of Lord Oxford.—Parliament meets after their adjournment.—Annulling of Lord Townſend's treaty.—Her Majeſty's meſſage reſpecting the Duke of Hamilton's patent.—The Emperor's propoſal to Parliament.—Seditious conduct of the Prince of Savoy.—Deaths of the Princes of France.—The Queen's ſpeech to her Parliament.—Unanimous thanks of the Houſe of Commons.—Retreat of the Pretender from France.—Appointment of the Duke of Hamilton maſter-general of the ordnance.—Opening of the campaign.—Defeat of the allies at Denain.—Embaſſy of Lord Bolingbroke to France.—Appointment of the Duke of Hamilton ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France.—Plot againſt his life,—and his aſſaſſination.—Reward of L. 800 to apprehend Maccartney.—Marlborough compelled to fly the kingdom.—Appointment of the Duke of Shrewſbury ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France.

THE judicious meaſures purſued by a provident Sovereign, ſkilfully aſſiſted by the prudent, moderate, and vigilant

PART II. BOOK II.

1712. The twelve new Peers take their ſeats,

pilot at the helm of national affairs, had, as far as human foreſight can reach, prepared the great veſſel of the ſtate for encountering the ſtorm which the lowering aſpect of the horizon ſtill portended. Much remained yet to be done, effectually to combat, and finally withſtand, the fury of noxious and enraged elements. The hiſſings of a factious Hydra were loud and vehement; fecund in wicked reſources, ſhe darted forth her venom on all around her. To quit the allegory, the blackeſt deſigns againſt government were meditating; the preſs teemed with inflammatory pamphlets; the moſt unfounded and ſeditious reports were put in circulation. To quote a grave and pious author of that time, deſcribing Faction,

"Within her arms are heaps of pamphlets ſeen;
"And theſe blaſpheme the Saviour, thoſe the Queen."

PARNELL.

The Houſes having met on the 2d of January, the twelve new Peers were introduced, ſworn in, and admitted to take their ſeats among the Lords. A motion having ſoon

ſoon after been made, to adjourn the Houſe to the 14th, it was oppoſed, and carried in favour of adminiſtration, by eighty-one againſt ſixty-eight *.

Arrival of the Prince of Savoy.

PRINCE Eugene of Savoy, the long expected auxiliary, whom Count Gallas, at the deſire of the diſaffected, had preſſingly ſolicited to appear in London on the preceding 5th of November, arrived three days after the adjournment. The miniſters, well appriſed of his deſigns, reſolved to have him doubly watched. Lord Oxford ſent one Drummond, in whom he could confide, to meet him in the river. Mr St John diſpatched a Mr Brinſden on the ſame errand. The Prince was conducted to the Queen, who received him politely, but with a degree of reſerve. She referred him to her miniſters upon the ſcore of buſineſs. No perſon witneſſed this interview, except Lord Oxford and Mr St John. The arrival of his Highneſs, at ſo critical a juncture, beyond meaſure bolſtered up the

* Journals of the Lords.

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hopes of the diſcomfited party. And well was he calculated for puſhing on and heading himſelf the moſt deſperate meaſures. His private aim, at all events, was to defeat a peace, which would curtail his revenue. He propoſed to embarraſs the miniſters with the moſt ſplendid offers on the part of the Emperor, and to dazzle the nation with a promiſe of the whole commerce between Spain and America. If theſe reſources failed, he was bent on contriving a revolution, which might enable him to continue the war, to the laſt extremity, againſt the Houſe of Bourbon *.

Interview between the Prince and Marlborough.

In the Prince's interview with Marlborough, the delay in his appearance was grievouſly complained of. "Had you arri-"ved a month before," ſaid Marlborough to him, "my friends had a majority; we "might eaſily have ſent two or three of the "oppoſite party to the Tower; their vacant "places might have been filled up with "men diſpoſed to continue the war.

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

"Whereas

"Whereas now, the face of affairs is changed; twelve new Peers have been created, and the Scottiſh ones are arrived. Extremities muſt either be recurred to, or the buſineſs altogether dropped. That ſilly woman (meaning the Queen) is in the hands of three or four perſons, who govern her at pleaſure, and whom force alone can remove. You ſhould, in theſe circumſtances, cultivate the good opinion of the miniſter, and induce the Commons to grant plentiful ſupplies. *My whole party* ſhall attend to improve circumſtances as they fall in."

Plot in agitation.

THIS dilatory mode of proceeding being ill reliſhed by the boiſterous Prince, Marlborough propoſed, in the mean while, to let looſe bands of ruffians in the night upon the citizens, in order to excite mobs, "in which," ſaid he, "we may eaſily find means to rid ourſelves of thoſe who ſtand in our way." "No," ſaid the Prince, who diſliked half meaſures; "we muſt, during the night, ſet fire to the city in various places, particularly to the palace of St James's,

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" James's, the Queen's reſidence. You ſhould, " for the purpoſe, ſelect the night, when " an officer upon whom you can depend " is on duty. During the conflagration, " you ſhould appear in arms, poſſeſs your- " ſelf of the Tower, the Bank, and the Ex- " chequer; next march to St James's, ſeize " the Queen, and force her to diſſolve the " Parliament." This ſcheme was not altogether rejected; Marlborough pondered it, and wiſhed to conſult his friends on the ſubject. It was accordingly ſubmitted to my Lords Somers, Cowper, and Halifax. Upon the firſt bluſh of the buſineſs, theſe declined giving their opinion; but when preſſed to it, they declared themſelves for meaſures leſs pregnant with open violence. " Let us," ſaid they, " preſerve a colour of right on our " ſide, and keep within a legal fence. Let " Bothmar, in the Elector's name, ſend in " a ſecond memorial, ſtill more pointed and " peremptory than the laſt." The Baron, however, excuſed himſelf from taking ſo bold a ſtep, without expreſs orders from his maſter.

WISH-

WISHING to accommodate himſelf to the temper of his gueſts, the Prince gave up that favourite plan, and in its room propoſed, "That the Elector of Hanover ſhould "be appointed to the chief command of "the allied army in Flanders, and Gover-"nor-General of the Netherlands; that to "overawe the miniſtry, he ſhould repair "to Britain, and appear at the head of the "oppoſition." This laſt project ſeriouſly alarmed both Marlborough and his connection Lord Godolphin. With a multiplicity of arguments, too tedious to relate, each of them, by turns, oppoſed it, with infinite ſagacity. The Prince, quite out of patience with their objections, at length told them, "that they were ene-"mies to all regal governments; that he "well perceived their object to be more "perſonal power and emoluments than a "change of meaſures; and that without "attachment, either to families of princes, "or forms of government, they wiſhed "to manage the nation with a factious ari-"ſtocracy *." With this angry retort he left

* The Marquis de Torcy gives, in his Memoirs, a full account of this interview. Mr Macpherſon, in his Hiſtory of Great

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left them, and thus broke up the firſt conference, happily without concluding on any ſettled plan. An exact account of what paſſed in this conſultation, with the very expreſſions uſed by the reſpective parties, as reported by Count Gallas, were faithfully conveyed by Plunket to the miniſter's ear.

Obſervations on the reſult of the conſultation.

THE reſult of this conference between the Prince of Savoy, the Duke of Marlborough, and the heads of his party, may puzzle ſome of my readers. They will find themſelves entangled in a labyrinth of ſurmiſes, from which they may wiſh for a clue to get themſelves extricated. I will endeavour to ſupply them with it, as far as I am able.

FROM effects, in this inſtance, the cauſe muſt be deduced. The attainment of power had been Marlborough's primary ob-

Great Britain, enters upon a more minute detail of the circumſtance. To either or both of them I refer ſuch readers as may wiſh for further lights on this ſubject *Factious ariſtocracy* was certainly the Prince's expreſſion, as well as all the others put in his mouth.

ject;

ject; his luſt for riches was but a neceſſary attendant. To engroſs unbounded ſway, he had originally been impelled to conſpire againſt the life of his own Sovereign, and next to abandon him. On the Prince of Orange he had extenſive claims. He had efficatiouſly aſſiſted in driving James out of his kingdom, and in ſeating the Prince on the vacated throne *. A ſimple earldom, in return for ſuch ſervices, he deemed wholly inadequate to his merit. He might have obtained that bauble from his former maſter. He aſpired at governing the realm. Lynx-eyed William ſaw deep into the man, and declined gratifying his ſoaring ambition. Hence the cauſe of his betraying him, as he before had done James. A kingly phantom, allowing full ſcope to his deſpotiſm, was the end and aim of his moſt ſanguine deſires. The Princeſs of Denmark was ready made up to his mind; ſhe was wholly in his power, and that of his able

* It was not the avowed intention of William, and clearly not that of any of the Lords who invited him over, to have dethroned James. Innumerable proofs exiſt, that no more was originally intended, than to have reſtrained him within conſtitutional limits.

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conſort. Her proſpect to reign was not very diſtant; (for neither William nor Mary promiſed to be long lived); on her, therefore, all his wiles had been ſucceſsfully practiſed. To ſecure his ſituation beyond the reach of contingence, he had early turned his thoughts to the giving her a ſucceſſor whom he could manage with equal facility. None appeared ſo well qualified for his purpoſe, as the young Pretender. His being a Roman Catholic was to him rather an advantage, than otherwiſe. Such a King he might have kept in a remote ſanctuary, far hidden behind an impenetrable ſkreen. This deep laid ſcheme was not, however, unattended with obſtacles. Lord Middleton, whom he mortally hated *, might have reaped the greateſt benefits from his pupil's elevation. How to ſeparate them, was the difficulty. He had before his eyes a recent and galling inſtance, in Mrs Maſham, of the danger attending

* His enmity to Lord Middleton was principally founded on that miniſter's oppoſition, in 1703, to his aſpiring project, of marrying the young Pretender to Lady Eliſabeth Churchill, his third daughter. This circumſtance is confirmed by Mr Macpherſon.

tending on middling ſervants. As to the Elector, he was very far from deeming him eligible. His chance of governing ſuch a Prince was very ſmall indeed. To have him in the kingdom, or even in the Netherlands, was therefore the fartheſt thing from his wiſh. Still he judged it political to feed him with bombaſt. He was, by that means, enabled to uſe his miniſter as an engine for his wrath. It was, moreover, deemed prudent, at all events, to be on the beſt terms with his Electoral Highneſs.

The Duke of Hamilton's letter.

FROM well founded inferences let us paſs to authentic facts. The following extract of an artleſs letter from the Duke of Hamilton to the Earl of Middleton, dated the 11th of January 1712, will caſt a conſiderable light on the true ſtate of the Queen's mind at that period, and will manifeſt the principles upon which her councils were governed. He tells him, "The poſſeſſion "of the crown has never been the object "of the Queen's wiſhes, nor does ſhe con- "ſider it as her property. She looks upon "it as a depoſit placed in her hands, for

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" which ſhe thinks herſelf accountable.
" The Prince's misfortunes affect her ſen-
" ſibly; ſhe laments that they have been
" brought upon him by imbibing tenets
" repugnant to her people. For my part,
" I am hurt to ſee Jacobite Lords ſiding
" with Marlborough. The ſight is odious,
" and gives offence to the Queen. What
" can you mean by oppoſing her views?
" Are you not yet ſatisfied about the man's
" fallacy? It is time you ſhould open your
" eyes, and ceaſe to flatter yourſelves, or
" ſuffer yourſelves to be amuſed with vain
" hopes. The country will never receive a
" King from France, nor will the Engliſh
" ſuffer themſelves to be governed by a Ro-
" man Catholic. I would rejoice to ſee the
" Prince one day reſtored; but I declare a-
" gainſt having any concern in civil wars.
" To be plain, you ſhould loſe no time
" in taking him away from France, and
" not wait till you be compelled by a pu-
" blic or private article in the treaty. Go
" with him to a Proteſtant country, and
" marry him, as ſoon as poſſible, to a Pro-
" teſtant

" teſtant. I wiſh you were ſafe in Swe-
" den *."

WE ſoon ſhall ſee what effect this honourable and ſalutary advice had upon the court of St Germain.

Admirable prudence of Lord Oxford.

UPON confiding the treaſonable practices of the Prince of Savoy to Lord Oxford, Plunket, concluding that this foreigner would be arreſted, and himſelf called upon to ſupport his charges, through the hands of the Earl of Yarmouth, tranſmitted to the Duke of Buckingham, and to the Lord Keeper Harcourt, a detailed account of the buſineſs, accompanied with ſeveral papers, corroborating the Prince's treaſonable deſigns, which a friend had forwarded to him from Holland. The Duke of Buckingham inſtantly laid the whole before the cabinet-council. Lord Oxford, who was averſe to proceed to extremities, became ſeriouſly alarmed. Plunket was ordered to

* From an original MS. letter of the Duke of Hamilton, among the papers left me by my father.

attend;

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attend; but Oxford carried him firſt to the Queen. From the preſence, the Duke of Buckingham conveyed him before the council. He was ſtrictly examined, and was promiſed a proviſion for life, in return for his ſervices. He was next ordered to repair to Holland, with a view to induce, by promiſes, the friend from whom he had received the Prince of Savoy's papers, to come over to London, that the council might be enabled to lay their proceedings before Parliament. From Holland, Plunket ſignified that his friend was ready to accompany him over; but that he previouſly required a promiſe, under the hand of the miniſter, ſecuring to him the tendered offer of a ſettlement for life. Lord Oxford, ſatisfied with having fathomed the iniſtrous deſigns of the diſaffected, found means to employ Plunket in Holland, and prevented the council from alarming the nation with the publication of ſo dangerous a conſpiracy.

Parliament meets after their adjournment.

ON the 14th of January, both Houſes having met, received a meſſage from the Queen,

Queen, requeſting them to adjourn themſelves to the 17th of the month, with which they complied. On that day, the Commons were informed by a ſecond meſſage, "That the plenipotentiaries had arri-" ved at Utrecht, and had already opened " the conferences for the ſpeedy re-eſta-" bliſhment of the public tranquillity, the " terms of which ſhould be communicated " to them: That to ſecure the concluſion " of peace, by appearing provided for war, " all preparations were made for opening " an early campaign. Her Majeſty, there-" fore, requeſted the Houſe to give the ne-" ceſſary diſpatch to the ſupplies. She " concluded with complaining of the li-" cence of the preſs, which was become " too great to be reſtrained by the laws in " force; and ſhe recommended to the " Houſe to find a remedy equal to the miſ-" chief *." The Commons "thanked her " Majeſty for her promiſe to communicate " to them the terms of the peace. They " reflected on ſuch perſons as ſpread

* Journals.

" groundleſs

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" groundleſs and malicious reports againſt " her councils. They promiſed to diſpatch " the ſupplies; and aſſured her, that they " would take the moſt effectual ſteps to " ſtop the licentiouſneſs of falſe and ſcan- " dalous libels *."

AFTER theſe dutiful aſſurances, the Commons proceeded to take into conſideration the reports of the Commiſſioners of public accounts. On its appearing that Mr Robert Walpole, late ſecretary at war, had received 500 guineas, with a promiſſory note for 500 more, on making two contracts for ſupplying the troops in North Britain with forage, he was expelled the Houſe, and committed to the Tower. Having next conſidered the information laid by Sir Solomon Medina againſt the Duke of Marlborough, and Adam Cardonnel his ſecretary, as well as heard their defence, the Houſe voted, that both had been guilty of unwarrantable and illegal practices. The whole Houſe carried their vote to the

* Journals.

Queen,

Queen, who ordered her Attorney-General to commence a proſecution againſt the two delinquents; and the members at their return expelled Adam Cardonnel *.

Annulling of Lord Townſend's treaty with the States.

FROM theſe merited cenſures on Marlborough and his accomplices, the Commons paſſed to the annulling a treaty made by the Viſcount Townſend, the co-plenipotentiary of the former, with the States-General, the tenor of which impeded the concluſion of the peace. Far exceeding his delegated powers, the Viſcount had guaranteed to the States, Liſle, Tournay, Menin, Douay, and ſeveral places on the Lys and Scheld, which in themſelves were an indiſpenſable barrier to France. This buſineſs led Parliament into a thorough examination of the conduct of the allies during the whole courſe of the war. A ſcene of iniquity was thereupon diſcloſed, which completely opened the nation's eyes on the impoſitions practiſed upon her unſuſpect-

* Journals.——N. B. Biſhop Burnet, and other authors of that reign, have computed the ſum thus fraudulently obtained at half a million Sterling.

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ing credulity. It came out, that none of the confederates, except Great Britain, had fulfilled their reſpective engagements. It was palpably proved, that the Emperor, who had moſt to gain by the war, had contributed the leaſt towards its expence; that the United Provinces had not conformed to their terms in the treaty of alliance; that the King of Portugal and the Duke of Savoy had derived very lucrative profits from the conteſt; in fine, that our annual expence, which at the commencement of the war did not amount to four millions, was increaſed to *ſeven*, through the deficiencies of the allies. It was made to appear, that the States-General had frequently not furniſhed above one third of their ſhipping; that their quota of troops in Flanders had been deficient in *twenty thouſand men*; and that they had withdrawn all their forces from Spain, where Great Britain maintained a large army: through which means, the nation had expended *nineteen millions* above her quota. Indignant reſolutions were framed by the Commons on this diſcovery, and an addreſs carried up to the throne,

throne, enumerating theſe various impoſitions *.

Meſſage of her Majeſty reſpecting the Duke of Hamilton's patent.

STILL ſolicitous for the reſtoration of the wounded branch of her prerogative, the Queen, on the 17th of January, had, by a meſſage to the Lords, urged the reconſideration of the Duke of Hamilton's patent †; but, by repeatedly adjourning from day to day, the Peers ſeemed determined to adhere to their former deciſion. The Peerage of Scotland, inflamed at the new inſult offered them by this procraſtination, came to a reſolution, to deſiſt ſitting any longer in an aſſembly, unjuſtly refuſing to acknowledge a right, to which they were unqueſtionably intitled in common with other ſubjects. The party alertly ſeizing the opportunity of the ſeceſſion of the Scottiſh Peers, moved an addreſs to her Majeſty, expreſſive of their indignation

* Journals.

† This act of juſtice, amidſt a multiplicity of others, was reſerved for the endearing reign of George III.

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at the terms offered by the French King, in which they engaged " to ſtand by and " aſſiſt her with their lives and fortunes " in proſecuting the war with the utmoſt " vigour *." This, however, proved their laſt triumph; the Scottiſh Peers were prevailed upon to reſume their ſeats, and keep under the factious ſpirit of the Oppoſition.

The Emperor's propoſals to parliament.

In conſonance with the outward carriage of miniſtry towards the Prince of Savoy, Mr St John ſubmitted to the Houſe propoſals made by the Prince in the name of the Emperor, for the future ſupport of the war in Spain. They ſet forth, that his Imperial Majeſty, judging that 40,000 men would be ſufficient for that ſervice, offered to increaſe his own quota of troops in that kingdom to the number of 30,000; to take upon himſelf one-fourth of the expences of the Spaniſh war; and, (as a powerful bait to a trading nation), in return for the aſſiſtance to be afforded him, he promiſed to ſecure to Great Britain the entire

* Lords Journals.

poſſeſſion

poſſeſſion of the commerce of Spain and America. Theſe propoſals were laid on the table, where they were permitted to remain totally unnoticed.

Seditious conduct of the Prince of Savoy.

FURIOUS with diſappointment, the enraged Prince vowed to wreak his vengeance on the miniſters. At the head of a liſt of devoted victims, were placed Lord Oxford, Secretary St John, and Lord Keeper Harcourt. Aſſaſſins were aſſociated under the appellation of Mohawks, for the purpoſe of executing his ſanguinary mandates. To familiariſe themſelves with deeds of blood, barbarities were by them wantonly practiſed during the night on the peaceable citizens. Theſe ferocious banditti, with naked ſwords and brandiſhed daggers, ſallied forth in the dark, and filled the ſtreets with horror and diſmay, pinking (their cant word for ſtabbing) ſuch as they deemed their enemies. A chairman, with one of his poles, beat out the brains of a foreigner of the Prince's retinue, ſaid to be his near relation, who belonged to that abominable aſſociation.

As

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As preparations were making to celebrate the birth-day of a beloved Sovereign, intelligence was received, that, on that day, the Court was deſtined to be made the theatre of meditated ſlaughter. A band of Mohawks were to ſally forth from a houſe adjoining the palace, and, among others, were to put to death Lord Oxford, Mr St John, and the Lord Keeper. Inſtead of the Nobles and other ſubjects being admitted to lay their annual tribute of loyalty at the feet of their Sovereign, the gates of St James's, to defeat the helliſh plot, were, on the 17th of February, kept mournfully ſhut up. The guards were doubled, and troops of horſe ſtationed in the principal ſquares. By every expedient which prudence ſuggeſted, the dark deſigns were counteracted. A detachment was ordered to attend the ſteps of the Prince of Savoy, leſs to protect his perſon, than to reſcue the threatened victims from his violence. The Lord Treaſurer took refuge within the palace, where his preſence was moreover become requiſite to ſupport the ſinking ſpirits of a terrified Queen, in hourly dread

dread of aſſaſſins. Mr St John and the Lord Keeper ſhut themſelves up in their reſpective houſes, not daring to venture out. To overawe the deſperate violators of the public ſafety, a proclamation was iſſued, promiſing a reward of L. 100 for the diſcovery of any *Mohawk*. By the adoption of theſe vigilant meaſures, much bloodſhed was averted. Still, while this dangerous viſitor remained in the kingdom, all protection was held precarious. Repeated meſſages were, from time to time, ſent to acquaint him that the yacht, to tranſport him to the continent, was in readineſs to ſail. Under various pretences he delayed his departure, loth to quit the prey whom he had marked out for deſtruction. At length it was reſolved, in council, to compel him to depart. Appriſed of this reſolution, he reluctantly prevented his diſgrace; and, on the 17th of March, delivered the Queen and her ſubjects from their well-grounded apprehenſions, by embarking at Greenwich *.

* Biſhop Burnet.

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1712. Deaths of the Princes of France.

In the courſe of the month of February, calamitous events had befallen the royal family of France, which obſtructed the concluſion of the treaty. The Duke of Burgundy, who, on the demiſe of the late Dauphin of France, (his own, Philip V. and the Duke of Berry's father), had become Dauphin, died at Marli in his 29th year, a few days after his Dauphineſs. The eldeſt of his two remaining ſons, the Duke of Britany, ſurvived his parents but a few days; and all three were buried in the ſame grave. Of this line there remained only the Duke of Anjou, a ſickly infant, (afterwards Louis XV.), after whom came Philip V. King of Spain, and laſtly the Duke of Berry. The danger of the two crowns being united upon one head became imminent, and called for additional and ſpecific proviſions in the pending treaty. As ſoon as the knowledge of theſe events reached Lord Oxford, with all haſte he diſpatched Mr Harley, a relation of his own, to Utrecht, and Abbé Gaultier to Verſailles. Each of them were expreſsly charged with ſtopping all further progreſs in

in the conferences, until Philip V. had engaged, not only to renounce all future claims to the crown of France, but had actually and abſolutely transferred all his pretenſions to his next brother the Duke of Berry. After the neceſſary and unavoidable delays, the peremptory demands of Great Britain were aſſented to. The King of Spain renounced his precarious proſpect of the crown of France, for the certain poſſeſſion of the throne of Spain; and in the beginning of June, her Majeſty agreed to a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities, upon the immediate delivery of Dunkirk to her troops.

The Queen's ſpeech to her Parliament.

ON the 6th of June, her Majeſty from the throne, addreſſing both Houſes of Parliament, ſaid, "Although the making "peace or war is the undoubted prerogative of the Crown, yet I am reſolved, in "conſequence of my promiſes, to communicate to my Parliament the terms of "the treaty, before the ſame be concluded. With regard to the concerns of "Great Britain, the French King has a-

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" greed to acknowledge my title, and the " eventual ſucceſſion of the Houſe of " Hanover to the throne; to demoliſh the " works and harbour of Dunkirk; that " Gibraltar and Port-Mahon ſhould remain " in the poſſeſſion of Great Britain; that " the iſland of St Chriſtopher ſhould be " ceded, the Straits and Bay of Hudſon " ſhould be reſtored, the iſland of New- " foundland, with Placentia, ſhould be " delivered up, and all Acadia or Nova " Scotia yielded for ever to the Britiſh na- " tion: That the trade and commerce of " Great Britain ſhould be ſettled in the " beſt and moſt permanent manner; and " that the Aſſiento, or contract for furniſh- " ing the Spaniſh Weſt Indies with ne- " groes, ſhould be granted to the ſubjects " of Great Britain for the ſpace of thirty " years."

" WITH regard to the States-General, " France has agreed to almoſt the ſame " barrier that had been offered in the ne- " gotiations of the year 1709; that the Spa- " niſh Low Countries ſhould be ſecured to " the

" the Emperor; that the Rhine ſhould be " the barrier of the empire; that Briſſac, " and the fortreſſes of Khel and Landau, " ſhould be ceded; that the Proteſtant in- " tereſt in Germany ſhould be ſettled on " the plan of the treaty of Weſtphalia; " that, on the ſide of Italy, the kingdoms " of Naples and Sardinia, the duchy of " Milan, and the Spaniſh territories on the " Tuſcan ſhore, ſhould be yielded to the " Houſe of Auſtria.—The fate of Sicily re- " mains ſtill undecided; but all diſputes " are for ever removed with regard to the " ceſſion of that iſland by the Duke of An- " jou. The difference between the barrier " demanded by the Duke of Savoy in " 1709, and that offered at preſent by " France, is very inconſiderable; beſides, I " am myſelf endeavouring to procure for " his Royal Highneſs ſtill greater advanta- " ges. In return for all, Spain and the " Weſt Indies are to remain to King Phi- " lip; but, in order to prevent the union " of the two crowns of France and Spain " upon one head, that Prince is to re- " nounce for ever, in the moſt ſolemn

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" manner, all pretenſions to the French " monarchy *."

Unanimous thanks of the Commons.

WITHOUT one diſſenting voice, the Commons returned a moſt dutiful addreſs to her Majeſty, expreſſive of their warmeſt thanks for the communication of the terms of the peace, which they entirely approved. The Lords adjourned the conſideration of the ſpeech from the throne to the next day; when the Oppoſition, finding their efforts vain to prevent the addreſs of thanks, endeavoured to clog it with an amendment, ſuggeſting, " that the guarantee of the trea- " ty ſhould, previouſly to its concluſion, " be obtained from the allies." But the motion was rejected by a great majority, who likewiſe voted, " That a proteſt enter- " ed by ſeveral Lords upon this queſtion " be expunged out of the books of the " Houſe †."

WITHOUT my remarking it here, the

* Journals of Parliament. † Lords Journals.

reader

reader will be ſenſible that the Duke of Hamilton's letter to Lord Middleton had operated to open the eyes of the court of St Germain, both upon the impolicy and injuſtice of the late meaſures, into which they had been craftily betrayed, and of the erroneous ſteps which they had hitherto unadviſedly purſued. Certain it is, that on the laſt occaſion, not an upright Peer attached to the excluded family was ſeen to vote with Marlborough's motely party.

Retreat of the Pretender from France.

SENSIBLY grateful for the judicious advice of the Duke, the excluded Prince was moreover preparing to leave France, in conformity to it, when, early in the ſpring, both he and the ſiſter whom he had in France were ſeized with the ſmallpox. The ſymptoms of the diſorder upon both were at firſt equally violent; but the Princeſs only yielded to the peculiar virulence of the infection. The Prince having recovered, as ſoon as he found himſelf able to bear the fatigue of a carriage, quitted St Germain, attended by Lord Middleton, his faithful Mentor, and a clergyman of the church

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church of England. With a ſmall train of ſervants, compoſed entirely of Proteſtants, he ſet off for the north of Europe. He had not proceeded far, when Lord Middleton received authentic advice, that their ſteps were watched, and that dangers, of which they were not aware, awaited them on their leaving the dominions of France. This intelligence forced them to ſtop at Chaalons ſur Marne, about one hundred and twenty miles from Paris, and to deviate from their original plan. From that town an expreſs was diſpatched to the Duke of Lorraine, to demand a temporary aſylum in his dominions, under the joint ſafe-conduct of the Emperor and of that Prince. As ſoon as an anſwer was received from Vienna, the Duke of Lorraine tranſmitted the required paſſports, with the moſt cordial invitation to the Pretender, who in conſequence eſtabliſhed his reſidence at Bar le Duc *.

* The above circumſtance was communicated to me by my Father, who was himſelf brought up a Proteſtant, and whoſe remains lie inhumed in the incloſure for burying Britiſh Proteſtants, at Montmartre, near Paris.

1712. Appointment of the Duke of Hamilton maſter-general of the ordnance.

ABOUT this period, the Queen, bending under the load of her obligations to the Duke of Hamilton, as the means preſented themſelves, ſought to exonerate herſelf. He was requeſted to accept the office of maſter-general of the ordnance, vacant by the death of the Earl of Rivers. On the 29th of Auguſt, he entered upon the functions of that office, leſs with a view to emolument, than animated with unwearied zeal for her ſervice. In addition to the order of the Thiſtle, originally beſtowed upon him by James II. Anne thought fit to decorate the Duke with that of the Garter. It was remarked to her, that the caſe was without a precedent; that no two ſuch diſtinct orders had ever been worn by any ſubject. Memorable is the anſwer returned by her Majeſty; authentic and abundant are its records: "Such a ſubject as "Duke Hamilton has a pre-eminent claim "to every mark of diſtinction which a "crowned head can confer; *I will hence-*"*forth wear both orders myſelf.*"

TOWARDS the end of April, the Duke of

PART II. BOOK II.

1712. Opening of the campaign.

of Ormond took the command of the Britiſh troops, and of the auxiliaries in the pay of Great Britain ſerving in the confederate army, which was increaſed this year with reinforcements from Germany to 122,000 men. The Britiſh General was inſtructed not to hazard a battle, the treaty of peace being at the eve of its concluſion. The Prince of Savoy, commanding the other confederated forces, panted after more blood. He was bent on attacking Villars ſtrongly poſted behind the Scheld; the other repreſented, that human lives would be vainly ſacrificed, as he every moment expected orders for a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities. That, however, he might not remain inactive, the reſtleſs Prince inveſted, and, after a ſhort ſiege, took Queſnoy. At length, the looked for orders, to ceaſe future carnage, reached the Duke of Ormond in the firſt days in June. He was directed, on receiving Philip's act of renunciation to the crown of France, to publiſh a truce, and march with his troops towards Dunkirk, the poſſeſſion of which was to be delivered to him. The attempt to fulfil theſe inſtructions,

ſtructions, developed another dark contrivance of Marlborough, with his aſſociates Heinſius and Prince Eugene. The chief officers of the auxiliaries had been tampered with, and were ſpirited up to refuſe obedience. It was plotted, to diſarm the Britiſh troops, and arreſt the Duke of Ormond *. On receiving intelligence of this new piece of barefaced treachery, Secretary St John, by expreſs orders from her Majeſty, acquainted the Marquis de Torcy, foreign miniſter of Louis, "that his miſtreſs was "reſolved effectually to unite herſelf with "France, to defeat this laſt effort of men, "who, to gratify private reſentment, wiſh-"ed to protract the calamities of war." The Queen, at the ſame time, commanded it to be ſignified to the miniſters of thoſe Princes whoſe troops were in Britiſh pay, that, as their forces refuſed to act with her native troops, they muſt not expect any more of her money. The Duke of Ormond was at the ſame time poſitively ordered to abandon allies unworthy of future

* De Torcy's Memoirs; and corroborated by Swift and others.

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ſupport. Sir John Leake, with the fleet, was ſent to Dunkirk with 4000 men, which, on the 7th of July, was delivered up into the hands of Brigadier-General Hill. On the 5th of that month the Duke of Ormond ſeparated himſelf from the confederates, and publiſhed a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities between Great Britain and France at Aveſne. In his march towards Ghent he was refuſed a paſſage through Bouchain. The ſame inſult was offered to the Britiſh commander by the garriſons of Douay, Tournay, Oudenarde, and Liſle. But on the 12th of July, he took poſſeſſion of Ghent and Bruges; and by commanding the Lys and the Scheld, checked the operations of both armies.

Defeat of the allies at Denain.

FORTUNE, as if reſenting the perfidy of the allies, turned her back upon them, as well as Great Britain. The Prince of Savoy had ſat down before Landrecy. Having opened his trenches, he fortified his camp, and ſtationed the Earl of Albermale at Denain, with 14,000 men, to cover the paſſage

paſſage of his convoys from Marchiennes, the repoſitory of all his magazines. Villars made a feint of attacking his right towards Landrecy; but ſuddenly turning to the left, he reached Neuville on the morning of the 19th of July; threw at once three bridges acroſs the Scarpe, paſſed that river, and marched ſtraight towards Denain. The Prince of Savoy haſtened to the lines between Neuville and Denain, in which he puſhed ſix more battalions, and returned in perſon to hurry on the march of his right wing. He had ſcarce left his lines, when they were entered, almoſt without reſiſtance, by the Count de Broglio. Four battalions of Palatines flung down their arms and fled. The whole French line croſſed the Scheld; and without firing a ſhot, marched up to Albermale's entrenchments, drove the enemy from behind them, and cut in pieces thoſe who reſiſted. The fugitives ran towards a bridge which they had built on the Scheld; they found it occupied by the French, and were reduced to ſeek their ſafety by ſwimming acroſs the river. The Prince arrived in time to

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witneſs the route of his troops, whom he endeavoured in vain to relieve, by ſtriving to diſlodge the party occupying the bridge. 1000 of the confederates were ſlain in the action; upwards of 1500 drowned in the Scheld. With Lord Albermale, and a number of other officers of diſtinction, 3000 men were made priſoners *.

THE ſiege of Landrecy was raiſed; Marchiennes fell into the hands of the French; Douay, Queſnoy, and Bouchain, were ſucceſſively taken, in the Prince's ſight, and all their garriſons made priſoners. Between the 19th of July and the 7th of October, the allies had forty battalions taken or deſtroyed †.

Embaſſy of Lord Bolingbroke to France.

SECRETARY St John having been created Viſcount Bolingbroke, was by the Queen diſpatched to France, to further her views in favour of the Duke of Savoy. He reached Paris in the latter end of Auguſt, and very ſoon effected the object of his miſ-

* Biſhop Burnet, and Hiſt. de France. † Ibid.

ſion.

ſion. The Marquis de Torcy, for the French King, agreed with Lord Bolingbroke, "That "the Duke of Savoy and his deſcendants "ſhould be called to the throne of Spain, "in default of Philip V. and his male po- "ſterity; that this ſubſtitution ſhould be "inſerted in all the public acts relative to "the renunciation of Philip's claim to the "crown of France; that the renunciation "itſelf ſhould be regiſtered in the books of "the Parliament of Paris, and ſolemnly ad- "mitted by the Cortes or States of Caſtile "and Arragon; that the ceſſion of Sicily "to the Duke of Savoy ſhould, for the "preſent, remain ſecret, for various rea- "ſons; but that he never ſhould be ſuf- "fered to alienate that iſland for any other "territory." The barrier of that Prince was not ſo eaſily ſettled. France refuſed to grant any other places for that purpoſe, except Exilles, Feneſtrelles, and the Valley of Pragelas. The final adjuſtment of this point was therefore referred to the general congreſs at Utrecht, and the ceſſation of hoſtilities was agreed to be prolonged for four months longer. This buſineſs ſo far arranged,

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arranged, Mr Prior was left in Paris to manage the concerns of the nation, and Lord Bolingbroke returned to London *.

Appointment of the Duke of Hamilton ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France.

I am at length touching the fatal period, at which Great Britain was deprived of a true patriot, and the Queen of a zealous friend; at which a great family was robbed of their illuſtrious head, and Virtue of her dauntleſs champion; at which fraud, treachery, envy, and violence, imbrued their guilty hands in my noble Progenitor's blood. My ſoul ſhrinks with horror at the bare idea of the hideous ſcene; yet muſt I be circumſtantial; for the ſum of this atrocity has never been fairly ſtated.

Upon the return of Lord Bolingbroke from Paris, her Majeſty was pleaſed to nominate the Duke of Hamilton her ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France. Previouſly to his ſetting off upon this embaſſy, his Grace laboured to bring to iſſue a Chancery-ſuit, which for ſome

* De Torcy's Memoirs.

time

time had lain depending between Lord Mohun and him, whoſe reſpective conſorts were nieces of the late Earl of Macclesfield. By particular appointment the two Lords met, on the morning of the 13th of November, at the chambers of Mr Olebar, a maſter in Chancery. Upon hearing the evidence of Mr Whitworth, formerly ſteward of the Macclesfield family, an old man, whoſe memory was much impaired by age, the Duke of Hamilton ſaid, "There is no "truth or juſtice in him." Lord Mohun replied, "I know Mr Whitworth; he is an "honeſt man, and has as much truth as "your Grace." This grating retort was not noticed by the Duke. Having concluded their buſineſs, the parties ſeparated without any heat or apparent animoſity *. Lord Mohun that night ſupped at the Queen's Arms tavern in Pall Mall, in the company of General Maccartney and Co-

* The above, and all the following circumſtances, are extracted with fidelity from the different examinations taken before the privy-council, after the Duke's cruel cataſtrophe, and from the trial of General Maccartney before the court of King's-Bench.

lonel

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lonel Joſeph Churchill, both violent men, and declared partiſans of the Duke of Marlborough. From the tavern this Lord retired to his own houſe in Marlborough-ſtreet. On the next morning, 14th of November, Lord Mohun paid an early viſit to General Maccartney and Colonel Joſeph Churchill, who both occupied lodgings in the ſame houſe. Attended by theſe two gentlemen, his Lordſhip afterwards proceeded to Marlborough-houſe; where it is but too plain, that the offending party was prevailed upon to ſend a challenge to the party offended, (admitting that any offence had been meant by the one, and ſo underſtood by the other). In the courſe of that morning General Maccartney went in a chair to the Duke of Hamilton's houſe, told the porter that he was a gentleman from the *north*, and wrote down his name in the porter's book. The General returned, that day, three different times to the Duke's houſe; at the laſt of which, towards four o'clock, he was admitted, delivered a meſſage to the Duke from Lord Mohun, and was politely complimented to the door by his Grace.

Plot againſt his life.

LORD

LORD Mohun, at one o'clock, dined on that day at the Globe tavern with General Maccartney, Colonel Joſeph Churchill, and Sir Robert Rich. He remained in the company of theſe two laſt gentlemen, while the General abſented himſelf. At about half paſt four o'clock, General Maccartney returned to the Globe tavern, and took Lord Mohun away with him to the Roſe tavern, where having aſked a waiter, "Whether "the Duke of Hamilton was expected?" and having been anſwered in the affirmative, he deſired, when he came, to be ſhewn into another room. The Duke entering the tavern ſoon after, inquired for General Maccartney, who, on hearing his Grace, immediately came out to him. Both retired into a private room, and ordered a bottle of claret, a part of which they drank. After having remained about a quarter of an hour together, the Duke joined ſome company who expected him, and the General returned to my Lord Mohun, with whom he went away.

LORD Mohun that night again ſupped at

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the Queen's Arms in Pall-Mall, with the Duke of Richmond, Sir Robert Rich, Colonel Joſeph Churchill, and a ſtranger. About twelve at night General Maccartney came in, took Lord Mohun to the bagnio in Long Acre, ordered a room with two beds, and left his Lordſhip in the care of a waiter, who pulled off his ſhoes and ſtockings, and gave him a night-gown. The waiter depoſed, "That Lord Mohun was "very ſober, but ſeemed thoughtful; that "he walked up and down the room, with "his arms folded up, for ſome time, be-"fore he went to bed." About an hour after his Lordſhip had been in bed, General Maccartney returned, went up to Lord Mohun's chamber, and diſliking the appearance of the man who attended on Lord Mohun, he ordered up another, of whom he aſked, "Do you like the French?" the other anſwered, "No;" whereupon he deſired to be called at ſix o'clock in the morning.

HERE were uncommon pains taken to keep up Lord Mohun's ſpirits, who ſeems to

to have had very little inclination for this duel. Yet he was not a novice at fighting; for his Lordſhip had been engaged in other broils *. Let us now inquire how it fared with his Grace? So little did he apprehend that foul play was deſigned againſt him, ſo free was his generous breaſt from fear or ſuſpicion, that at ſeven o'clock on the next morning, 15th of November, as he was dreſſing himſelf to repair to the place appointed, he recollected that he ſtood in need of a ſecond. In all haſte he diſpatched a footman to Colonel Hamilton in Charing-croſs, with a requeſt, that he would dreſs himſelf with expedition, as he would ſpeedily be with him. The Duke ſtept into his chariot, ordered the coachman to drive to the Colonel's lodgings, went in, and ſo hurried him away, that, as the Colonel depoſed before the Privy Council, (the ſequel is his depoſition), "I "finiſhed to button my waiſtcoat in the "chariot. The Duke obſerving that I had

* Dean Swift, in his Four laſt Years, ſays, that Lord Mohun had twice been tried for murder.

" forgot my ſword, ſtopt his carriage, and " gave his footman a bunch of keys, with " orders to fetch a mourning-ſword out of " ſuch a cloſet. At the footman's return, " we drove on to Hyde Park, where the " coachman ſtopt. The Duke ordered " him to drive on to Kenſington. Co- " ming to the lodge, we ſaw a hackney- " coach at a diſtance, in which his Grace " ſaid, '*There was ſomebody he muſt ſpeak* " *with;*' but driving up to it and ſeeing " no body, he aſked the coachman, " '*Where are the gentlemen you brought?*' " He anſwered, 'A little before.' The Duke " and I got out in the bottom, and walk- " ed over the Pond's-head, when we ſaw " Lord Mohun and General Maccartney " before us. As ſoon as the Duke came " within hearing, he ſaid, '*He hoped he* " *was come time enough.*' Maccartney an- " ſwered, '*In very good time, my Lord.*' " After this we all jumpt over the ditch " into the nurſery; and the Duke turning " to Maccartney, told him, '*Sir, you are* " *the cauſe of this, let the event be what it* " *will.*' Maccartney anſwered, '*My Lord,*

" *I*

" *I had a commiſſion for it.*' Then Lord " Mohun ſaid, '*Theſe gentlemen ſhall have* " *nothing to do here.*' At which Maccart- " ney replied, '*We will have our ſhare.*' " Then, ſaid the Duke, '*Here is my friend,* " *he will take his ſhare in my dance.*' We " all immediately drew; Maccartney made " a full paſs at me, which, parrying down " with great force, I wounded myſelf in " the inſtep; however, I took that oppor- " tunity to cloſe with and diſarm Mac- " cartney; which being done, I turned " my head and ſeeing my Lord Mohun " fall, *with the Duke upon him*, I flung " down both the ſwords and ran to the " Duke's aſſiſtance. As I was raiſing up " my Lord Duke, *I ſaw Maccartney make* " *a puſh at his Grace.* I immediately look- " ed to ſee whether he had wounded him, " but perceiving no blood, I took up my " ſword, expecting that Maccartney would " attack me again; but he walked off. " Juſt as he was going, came up the keep- " ers and others to the number of nine " or ten, among the reſt, Ferguſſon, my " Lord Duke's ſteward, who had brought " Bouſſier's

The Duke aſſaſſinated.

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" Bouſſier's man with him (a ſurgeon), " who, on opening his Grace's breaſt, " ſoon diſcovered a wound on the left " ſide, which entered *between the left ſhoul-* " *der and the pap, and went ſlantingly down* " *through the midriff into his belly.*"

THE ſurgeons who afterwards opened the body, at the ſame time, confirmed this circumſtance. Let any perſon at all acquainted with the fencing attitudes determine, Whether ſuch a wound could have been given by the oppoſed adverſary in the act of fighting? or whether, while lying tranſfixed, extended on his back, he could have thruſt his ſword into his opponent's boſom, in the manner above deſcribed, particularly when it is conſidered, that the Duke had only accidentally ſlipped down upon the wet graſs *?

* Leſt it ſhould be ſurmiſed, that he might have held his ſword in the left hand, it ſhould here be mentioned, that in running Lord Mohun through the body, his Grace had received a wound in the *right arm*, which evinces that the right hand was his ſword hand.

JOHN

JOHN Reynolds of Price's Lodge further depoſed, "That he was within thirty or "forty yards from the Lords when they "fell: That my Lord Mohun fell into "the ditch upon his back, and the Duke "of Hamilton *leaning* over him: That the "two ſeconds ran in to them, and imme-"diately himſelf, who demanded the ſe-"conds ſwords, which they gave him; "but that he was *forced to wreſt the Duke's* "*ſword out of his hand:* That he aſſiſted in "lifting up the Duke, who was lying on "his face, and in ſupporting him, while "he walked about thirty yards, when he "ſaid he could walk no farther."

IT was thus the illuſtrious victim was immolated to the vindictive malice of a foe to the human race! Thus fell the flower of Nobility, the ornament of his age, and the pride of a country whom he loved, and by whom he was univerſally revered! My heart has bled at every line, while I have been retracing this abominable tranſaction.

A reverend author who celebrated the peace, in ſhedding a tributary tear to the memory of that great man, records his virtues in the following lines:

" For *peace prepar'd the Duke*—Ah! ſadly ſlain,
" 'Tis grief to name him whom we mourn in vain.
" No warmth of verſe repairs the vital flame,
" For verſe can only grant a life in fame:
" Yet could my praiſe, like ſpicy odours ſhed,
" In everlaſting ſong embalm the dead;
" To realms, that weeping heard the loſs, I'd tell,
" What courage, ſenſe, and faith, with *Brandon* fell."

PARNELL.

Reward of L. 800 offered to apprehend General Maccartney.

THE Queen, weighed down with grief and horror, iſſued her royal proclamation. L. 500 were offered by her Majeſty, and L. 300 more by the widowed Ducheſs, for apprehending the fugitive General Maccartney. The Peers of North Britain united in an addreſs to the throne, " beſeech-
" ing her Majeſty, to be pleaſed to order
" applications to be made to all the Princes
" and States on the Continent, that they
" would not only refuſe ſhelter to a man
" charged with ſo foul a crime, but cauſe
" him to be apprehended and delivered
" up

" up to Great Britain, that he might be " brought to public juſtice." Unavailable, however, proved every effort to have him apprehended; he not only eſcaped all purſuit at the time, but, in the end, was ſeen to triumph in his wickedneſs. Upon a reverſal of his outlawry, he was only found guilty of manſlaughter *.

Marlborough compelled to fly the kingdom.

THE meaſure of Marlborough's iniquities was at length nearly filled up; an impeachment was preparing againſt him, which his flight alone could ward off. Independent of the ſtrong preſumption of his having conſpired againſt the Duke of Hamilton's life, by prompting the deceaſed Lord Mohun, without a colour of right, to challenge the Duke of Hamilton, poſitive proofs againſt him for overt acts were infinite. His agreement with Preſident Rou-

* General Maccartney, ſome time after the Queen's death, ſurrendered himſelf, and taking his trial at the Court of King's Bench, was, on the 13th of June 1716, by the direction of the Court, acquitted of the murder, and found guilty of manſlaughter *only*.

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illé, for ſelling the peace to France in 1709, his ſanguinary plots with the Prince of Savoy, his contrivances with the States, for diſarming the Britiſh troops, and impriſoning the Duke of Ormond, with a conſiderable part of his treaſonable correſpondence with the Court of St Germain, were all lying in the hands of the Earl of Oxford, ready to be exhibited at his impending trial. Under this preſſure of accumulated crimes, with a proſecution vigorouſly carrying on againſt him for flagrant peculations, no reſource was left him, but haſtily to fly the kingdom. Having concealed himſelf for ſome days after the fatal duel, he ſecretly gained the ſea-coaſt, and, on the 24th of November, embarked at Dover for Oſtend. From thence he proceeded to Antwerp, where he eſtabliſhed his reſidence. He found protection in that city; but internal peace and comfort were not, in any place, deſtined to be his portion. Freſh on the minds of the inhabitants was the galling recollection of his oppreſſive extortions. The public reſentment againſt him was depicted on every ſurrounding countenance, when

when an injured youth, whom he had barbarouſly bereft of the tendereſt of parents, and of the brighteſt proſpect, made his unexpected appearance among the moſt conſpicuous citizens, thundered *murder* in his ear, and defied him to ſingle combat. Confounded at this ſummons, the daſtardly veteran ſhrunk back in ſilence; he could not be provoked to enter the liſts of honour.

Appointment of the Duke of Shrewſbury ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France.

RECOVERED from her conſternation, the Queen found it expedient to nominate, without delay, another nobleman her ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to France. Her Majeſty's choice devolved upon the Duke of Shrewſbury, who immediately repaired to Verſailles. Lord Lexington had in the month of October reached Madrid, as ambaſſador to Philip V. for the purpoſe of aſſiſting at this Prince's ſolemn renunciation of his claim to the crown of France, for himſelf and his poſterity, which he was to make, in the preſence of the Great Council of Caſtile and Arragon. In return, the Marquis de Monteleone, ambaſſador from Spain, had arri-

PART II. BOOK III.

1713. Introduction.

tude of a mild and benign Sovereign. Revengeful malice, combining with a vicious propenſity, prepared to deprive her of that repoſe which ſhe was ſolicitouſly enſuring to her ſubjects. A reign marked with violence to and the moſt degrading ſervitude in the Prince, a life interwoven with poignant vexations, were not permitted to cloſe without additional pangs and mortifications. Much it is to be regretted, that any prudential motives ſo far ſwayed the miniſter of Anne, as to have impelled him to draw a veil over Marlborough's miſdeeds. Vain were his expectations of reclaiming, by this ill-judged lenity, an offender ſo obdurate, who, on the contrary, derived emboldened arrogance from Lord Oxford's moderation. Another evil conſequence flowed on ſociety, from the erroneous concealment of the fugitive's treaſons. Neither the people, nor the Prince deſtined to govern them, could, by this means, be appriſed of the heinouſneſs of his contrivances, could be guarded againſt his future wiles, or armed againſt his traitorous attempts. Not only cotemporaries, who had an unqueſtionable claim

claim to the publicity of deſigns immediately ſtriking at the root of their political exiſtence, nor poſterity, anxious to fathom the cauſes which have given birth to remarkable events, were able to account for a multitude of incidents in the latter period of this reign, which, without the key now afforded, muſt have appeared inſcrutable.

WHILE a myſterious ſilence was obſerved by Lord Oxford, on the motives prompting him to expel Marlborough from the realm; buſy pamphleteers were let looſe by his party, to miſrepreſent the equitable meaſures of adminiſtration, and diſſeminate the groſſeſt impoſitions upon the public, in ſupport of the abſentee's pretended injured cauſe. No wonder then, that Marlborough was conſidered as the ſuffering victim of a triumphant party; no wonder that his plots ſo long eſcaped detection. Happily the period is at length arrived, when it cannot be any longer deemed either invidious or ſiniſtrous, to open the nation's eyes on the perils to which ſhe ſtood ſo imminently expoſed; when, without cenſure, the patriots may be pointed

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pointed out, who, to accompliſh the reſcue of our deareſt rights, expoſed their own lives, liberties, and even reputation. To the ſteady perſeverance of Lord Oxford in times the moſt difficult, we owe the ſucceſſion in the Proteſtant line, we owe the bleſſings diſpenſed over a happy land by the beloved Prince now weilding the Britiſh ſceptre, together with the cheering proſpect of their ſtability in his numerous and illuſtrious progeny.

Marlborough's miſchievous ſchemes.

MARLBOROUGH, contemned and ſhunned at Antwerp by the reſpectable part of the community, formed around himſelf a circle of the moſt abandoned and profligate of various nations. Schemes pregnant with miſchief were perpetually revolving in his thoughts. With unremitting aſſiduity and peculiar addreſs, he employed himſelf in ſowing diſſentions among the Queen's ſervants and diſtracting her councils. His ſeductions were ſucceſsfully practiſed on Lord Bolingbroke, who, yielding to an ambitious impulſe, was, by promiſes of unlimited ſupport from Marlborough and his party, prevailed upon

to

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to thwart the miniſter's plans in the cabinet, and endeavour to ſupplant him in her Majeſty's confidence. Having ſecured Anne's Secretary of State, Marlborough next ſtrove to reinſtate himſelf in the good opinion of the Pretender, by ſtrongly proteſting his innocence of any participation in the Duke of Hamilton's aſſaſſination. For that purpoſe, he wrote preſſing letters to the Duke of Berwick. His aſſertions or proteſtations, however, were no longer credited at that court. The excluded Prince could not hear his name mentioned, without ſigns of abhorrence. The Duke of Berwick was even deſired to forbear naming him *. The anſwers returned proving of courſe unfavourable to his views, he more ſucceſsfully applied his fraudulent efforts to perſuade the Elector of Hanover, that he was a ſufferer in his cauſe. He repreſented Lord Oxford as a ſecret enemy to the Electoral family, and as a devoted partiſan of the Pretender; he averred, that his object was

* Declarations made to me by my father, and confirmed by the Stuart papers publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

to abrogate the act of ſettlement; he even aſſerted, that the Queen countenanced the project; he urged the expediency of ſpies being ſupported about the excluded Prince; he declared that he was making a ſhew of conforming outwardly to the tenets of the Church of England, in colluſion with Lord Oxford, who, on his part, was ſedulouſly removing every impediment to his eventual ſucceſſion. By theſe means, he not only ſucceeded in awakening the fears of the preſumptive heir to the crown, but in deeply impreſſing his mind with the moſt unfounded jealouſies of the Queen and her miniſter. Not ſatisfied with ſpreading ſcandalous and malicious reports, Marlborough, reinforced with General Cadogan, laboured to ſpirit up the Elector to invade the kingdom, by repreſenting to him in ſtrong terms, that on ſuch a meaſure alone depended his chance of ever aſcending the throne. "The Duke of Marlborough and "General Cadogan ſignified their inclina- "tions to take the eventual command of "the troops. They declared that a writing "in French, without adherence to forms, "would

" would be ſufficient. They urged, that " the authority of the Duke of .Marlbo- " rough was ſo great among the ſoldiers, " that any piece of parchment was enough " to enſure their obedience to his com- " mand. As for Cadogan, he wiſhed only " for a ſhew of authority to take poſſeſſion " of the Tower, or to place himſelf, in con- " junction with the Electoral Prince, at the " head of the Britiſh troops that ſtill lay " in garriſon in ſome cities in Flanders *."

NEITHER theſe offers, nor the urgent motives adduced in theſe nefarious inſtigations, could move the Elector to exerciſe violence on a people, who, with predilective confidence, called him to reign over them, and preſerve their laws from violation. While theſe iniquitous practices were purſuing, the Queen and her miniſter were ſedulouſly occupied with taking the moſt effectual ſteps for ſhutting up all avenues to the hopes of the excluded Prince. By a

* Taken from the Hanover papers publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

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ſpecial article in the treaty, the French King was bound, not only to deprive him of an aſylum in his dominions, but particularly tied down to with-hold from him any future ſuccours.

Signing of the treaty.

THE Duke of Shrewſbury and the Marquis de Torcy having at length completed the treaty of peace, it was tranſmitted to the general congreſs at Utrecht, where it was ſigned on the 31ſt of March, by the plenipotentiaries of all the confederated powers, except thoſe of the Emperor, who was bent on proſecuting a war, not only become injudicious, but with an object for its aim, ſtrongly militating againſt the balance of power. The Britiſh and French plenipotentiaries ſigned, at the ſame time, a treaty of commerce between their reſpective nations, which was not deſtined to be confirmed by Parliament.

Conſiderations.

THUS ended at laſt the calamities of a war, which, but for the firmneſs of a wiſe and upright miniſter, would in all probability have been continued for ſome years longer,

to

to the manifeſt detriment of our intereſts, the imminent hazard, and perhaps ultimate loſs of our civil and religious liberties. For that both theſe laſt were evidently threatened by the overgrown power and inſidious views of Marlborough, requires very little diſcernment to penetrate. Of what avail would have been the act of ſettlement, againſt the forces of the realm, and the aſſiſtance of foreign States, in the hands of ſuch a man? Had his adminiſtration continued in the direction of affairs till the Queen's demiſe, would not all authority have of courſe devolved upon them by virtue of the regency-act? Whom would they have proclaimed King? With what intent was a ruinous and murderous war protracted from the year 1706, but to plunder, and in the end enſlave the nation? What ſecurity had a deluded people againſt the daring ſtrides of aſpiring and unreſtrained ambition? the frail life of a well-meaning but weak and timid Queen. Who inſpired her with courage to ſet herſelf and the nation at liberty? Who durſt oppoſe the mighty Marlborough in the zenith of his power,

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power, and, with unwearied perſeverance, purſue him through all his windings? Who did this, but the dauntleſs Duke of Hamilton? Why have not former hiſtorians plainly ſet forth this fact, and all myſtery would have at once vaniſhed away? This could not be done without criminating Marlborough; he was ſtill tremendous, the other was dead; he had fallen a victim to treachery, and was forgotten. Hence the cauſe of their ſilence; hence the cauſe of the obſcurity in which thoſe tranſactions have, to this hour, remained involved. What help could the Queen have derived from Mrs Maſham alone? what had this lady to offer to the wailings of her royal Miſtreſs, but a ſympathetic tear? Mr Harley was a juſt and able miniſter; but he was unſupported with any great weight of connection and intereſt; and, unfortunately for this country, merit alone ſeldom raiſes a man into power. The Duke of Hamilton, in pointing him out for the ſucceſſor of Lord Godolphin, brought Scotland to his aſſiſtance, with a conſiderable influence in England. Too ſoon was this miniſter made ſenſible of the loſs which he ſuffered

fered in the Duke's untimely death. To that unhappy circumſtance muſt be attributed the intricacies in which we ſhall behold him intangled, through the infidelity of Bolingbroke. This apoſtate, without the manifeſt interpoſition of Providence, was on the point of replunging both the country and the Sovereign, had ſhe ſurvived, into their former odious captivity; and in the end, would probably have defeated the ſalutary proviſions made for the ſecurity of the Proteſtant ſucceſſion.

FURTHER conſiderations may be requiſite to demonſtrate the abſolute neceſſity of the peace of Utrecht. From the year 1706, when nearly the ſame advantages might have been obtained as thoſe ſecured in 1713, the war had been carried on principally at the expence of Great Britain. From that time the lives of above fifty thouſand Britiſh ſubjects had been ſacrificed; the nation, beſides an enormous ſum, had expended *nineteen millions* above her quota; ſhe had loſt the greateſt number of her ſhips of war, taken or deſtroyed during the conteſt, in particular all the capital ſhips; her trade

was

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was abſolutely ruined, and her reſources, if not exhauſted, become precarious. She had been betrayed into a perſeverance in deſtructive meaſures by former ſervants, who, to enſure the favour of the allies, (ſurely with ſome ſiniſtrous intent), had winked at their immenſe deficiencies in their reſpective quotas *. Through the

* The commiſſioners of public accounts appointed by the new adminiſtration calculated the whole expence of government to the year 1712, at - L. 65,853,799
They deducted for the ordinary peace-eſtabliſhment, - - - 12,930,461

They accordingly eſtimated the expence of the war at - - } L. 52,923,338

See Chandler's Debates, (Commons), vol. 5. p. 100.

The Whigs, in the View of the Taxes, Funds, and Public Revenue, which they printed *anno* 1712, ſtate the expence of the war at only - - L. 48,513,773

But Sir John Sinclair, in his elaborate Hiſtory of the Revenue, not judging that in this laſt ſtatement L. 350,000 *per annum* for the navy, and L. 120,000 *per annum* for the army, was a ſufficient allowance for the peace-eſtabliſhment of that time, demonſtrates that the war of Queen Anne could not have coſt more than - L. 43,360,003

Still, however, the addreſs of the Commons to her Majeſty during the ſeſſion of 1712, expreſsly ſtates, that at the commencement of the war the national expence did not amount to four millions annually; whereas it then amounted to near ſeven; and that through the deficiencies of the allies the nation had expended NINETEEN MILLIONS over and above her quota.

precarious

precarious ſtate of the Queen's health, government was unſettled and avowedly expoſed; laſtly, the cauſes for which this war had been undertaken no longer exiſted. Theſe facts are ſo authenticated, their evidence is ſo forcible, that arguments would be waſted in proving the expediency of a peace at that period.

The Queen's ſpeech on opening the ſeſſion.

On the 9th of April, her Majeſty, in her ſpeech from the throne, informed both Houſes of Parliament, that a happy iſſue had attended her negotiations; that the treaty of peace was ſigned; and that in a few days the ratifications would be exchanged. She told them, that nothing had been left undone firmly to ſecure the Proteſtant religion, and that ſhe truſted the friendſhip ſubſiſting between her and the Houſe of Hanover would effectually diſappoint thoſe perſons who made a merit of ſeparating their intereſts. Of the Commons ſhe demanded the ordinary ſupplies. As to the force neceſſary for the protection of the nation, ſhe left this conſideration entirely to the wiſdom of her Parliament.

"Make yourſelves ſafe," ſaid ſhe, "and I "ſhall be ſatisfied. Next to the protection "of the Divine Providence, I depend for "the ſafety of my perſon upon the loyalty "of my people. I want no other guaran-"tee but the intereſt which I have in their "hearts." She next recommended to their protection thoſe brave men who had expoſed their lives in the ſervice of their country, and could not be employed in time of peace. She deſired they would concert meaſures for eaſing the foreign trade of the kingdom; for improving and encouraging the manufactures and the fiſheries; and for employing the hands of idle people. She expreſſed her diſpleaſure at the ſcandalous and ſeditious libels which had been lately publiſhed. She exhorted them to conſider of new laws for preventing this licentiouſneſs, and putting a ſtop to the impious practice of duelling. She conjured them to uſe their utmoſt endeavours to calm the minds of the people, that the arts of peace might be cultivated, and that groundleſs jealouſies, contrived by faction, and fomented by party-rage, might not effect that

that which their foreign enemy could not accompliſh *.

BOTH Houſes returned the moſt dutiful thanks for this ſpeech, and for the bleſſings of peace which it announced. The Commons not only granted the ſupplies, but in reducing the army and navy, they allowed a half-pay to the officers, although they lowered the land-tax to two ſhillings in the pound. Further inſtances of corruption and embezzlement of public money having been detected by the Commiſſioners of public accounts, Mr William Churchill, a member of the Houſe, was reprimanded, and a vote of cenſure paſſed on the Earl of Wharton, for having ſold an office, for one thouſand pounds, during his late viceroyalty †.

Treaty of commerce rejected.

MR Benſon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on ſubmitting to the Houſe of Commons the treaties of peace and commerce ratified at Utrecht the 28th of April, delivered a

* Journals. † Ibid.

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meſſage from her Majeſty, in which ſhe obſerved, "That though it was the undoubted prerogative of the Crown to make peace or war, yet, agreeably to her promiſe, ſhe now communicated to her Parliament the treaties which ſhe had juſt concluded." Some debate having taken place on the ſubject of the treaties, the 14th of May was appointed for reſolving themſelves into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to conſider the eighth and ninth articles of the treaty of navigation and commerce *.

THE Houſe accordingly reſolving themſelves into a Committee on the 14th of May, it was moved, to bring in a bill to make good the eighth and ninth articles of the treaty of commerce. This motion produced a violent debate, in which the reſulting advantages and diſadvantages were fully diſcuſſed. Although the latter ſeemed to preponderate, from the conſideration of the detriment likely to accrue to our manufactures

* Chandler's Debates.

nufactures of woollen, ſilk, and paper, as well as in the importation of Portugal wines; yet, upon a diviſion, the introduction of the bill was carried by 252 againſt 130, but its ingroſſment was oppoſed by a majority of nine votes; and thus the treaty of commerce with France was rejected.

Grievances of the Scots.

THE objection to this treaty did not diſtreſs the miniſter ſo much, as the oppoſition of the Scottiſh members to a bill for extending the malt-tax to Scotland, upon the principle, that ſuch a meaſure infringed upon an expreſs article of the Union. The motion having, however, been carried againſt them by a majority in the lower Houſe, ſo exaſperated were the Scottiſh Commoners, that, upon a conſultation with the Peers of that part of the realm, they agreed to depute the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Mar, Mr Lockhart, and Mr Cockburn, to her Majeſty, with a requeſt to be permitted to bring in a bill for diſſolving the Union.

ALTHOUGH

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Bill introduced in the Houſe of Lords for diſſolving the Union.

ALTHOUGH the Queen had expreſſed great diſſatisfaction at the propoſal, yet the Peerage of Scotland ſtill reſenting the indignity offered to their order, by the inadmiſſion of the Duke of Hamilton's patent, determined to introduce a bill in the Houſe of Lords for diſſolving the Union. Accordingly, on the 1ſt of June the Earl of Findlater, after having enlarged on the multifarious grievances which the Union had entailed on the Scottiſh nation, moved for leave to bring in a bill to diſſolve that treaty. The motion was ſeconded by the Earl of Mar in a pointed and ſpirited ſpeech. The debates upon this important queſtion became general and uncommonly animated. The Duke of Argyle, who had other cauſes for being diſſatisfied with the Miniſter, expreſſed himſelf with unuſual virulence. However, upon the queſtion being put, Lord Findlater's motion was rejected by a majority of four voices only.

Addreſs to her Majeſty approving the treaties.

UNDER the mortifications experienced by the Queen and her Miniſter, ſome teſtimony of a public approbation of their conduct

1713.

conduct was afforded. An addreſs to her Majeſty, expreſſive of the thanks of the Houſe of Commons for the treaties of peace and commerce, was voted by one hundred and fifty-ſix againſt ſeventy-two. In her anſwer, the Queen thanked the Commons, and regretted that the treaty of commerce had not been enforced by law. A few days after, on a meſſage from her Majeſty, intimating that arrears had accrued upon her civil liſt, ſhe was empowered, by a bill paſſed by a great majority, to raiſe the ſum of L. 510,000 upon that fund *. An addreſs having afterwards been moved, praying the Queen to urge the Duke of Lorraine to diſcountenance the reſidence of the Pretender in his dominions, and requeſting, that he might take up his abode at a greater diſtance from Great Britain, it paſſed both Houſes, meeting but with one diſſenting voice in the Houſe of Lords.

THE public buſineſs being all diſpatch-

* Journals.

ed,

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1713. Parliament prorogued.

ed, her Majeſty cloſed the ſeſſion of Parliament on the 16th of July with a ſpeech from the throne, emphatically deſcriptive of the ſentiments which governed her actions. She returned the Commons her ſincere thanks for the ample ſupplies which they had ſo liberally granted. She truſted, that, at their next meeting, the affairs of commerce would be ſo underſtood, that her people might be enabled to enjoy the advantages of the commercial treaty. She expreſſed how ſenſible ſhe was of their affection, their duty, and zeal. She enumerated their former ſervices, and dwelt upon their late favours. She confeſſed her gratitude for their having enabled her to continue and happily terminate a war, which ſhe had found prepared at her hands on her acceſſion to the throne. "God," exclaimed ſhe, pathetically, "has "bleſſed my arms with many victories "in that war, which I have improved by "procuring an advantageous and honour-"able peace. Make my people ſenſible of "what they have gained by the late trea-"ties. Remove, I intreat you, the ground-

"leſs

" leſs jealouſies which have been ſo induſ-
" triouſly raiſed, and prevent all unhappy
" diviſions, that might not only weaken
" but endanger the advantages which I
" have obtained for my kingdoms. There
" are ſome people, very few I hope, who
" never will be ſatisfied with any govern-
" ment. Shew, therefore, your love for
" your country, by obviating the malice
" of the ill-minded, and by undeceiving
" the deluded. Nothing can eſtabliſh
" peace at home, nothing can recover the
" diſorders that have happened during the
" war, but a ſteady adherence to the con-
" ſtitution, in Church and State. None
" but ſuch as are true to theſe principles
" can be truſted. They have the beſt title
" to my favour, as I have neither intereſt
" nor aim, but to ſecure the religion of my
" country, and the liberty of my people *."

THIS ſpeech, breathing throughout the pureſt love for her country, the ſteadieſt attachment to the conſtitution, the greateſt

* Journals.

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anxiety for the peace and happineſs of her ſubjects, with the moſt fervent zeal for religion, eſcaped not the cenſures of the unprincipled and turbulent, who found themſelves too particularly pointed at.

Dr Sacheverell promoted.

THE term of Dr Sacheverell's ſuſpenſion being expired, the Commons had complimented him with a requeſt to preach before them, and had afterwards returned him public thanks for his ſermon. About this time the Queen was pleaſed to confer on the Doctor the wealthy benefice of St Andrew in Holborn. The Parliament having ſat during the term of three years, was diſſolved by proclamation. Upon this occaſion, the party in oppoſition to the Court launched out into the moſt unwarrantable exceſſes. Aided by the moſt wicked and inflammatory productions from the preſs, they filled the kingdom with riots and tumults. Mobs in London were excited to the commiſſion of the moſt daring outrages. Scurrilous ballads, both in French and Engliſh, were diſperſed among them, againſt the Duke d'Aumont, the

Parliament diſſolved.

the French ambaſſador: he was not only perſonally inſulted, but his houſe was burnt down to the ground. Theſe diſorders extended themſelves to Scotland, where the Pretender's adherents, joined by thoſe perſons who were averſe to the Union, indulged themſelves in unjuſtifiable licentiouſneſs and unreſtrained irregularities. During the conteſt for the election in Edinburgh, a petition to the Houſe of Commons for diſſolving the Union, was framed and ſubſcribed by a great number of the inhabitants. Even Ireland eſcaped not from a participation in the commotions agitating her ſiſter kingdom. The Duke of Shrewſbury, at his arrival in Dublin, found that city convulſed with a domeſtic ſtrife between the Iriſh Whigs and Tories, on account of the choice of a Lord Mayor. To ſuch a pitch was the popular phrenzy carried, during the enſuing election of members to ſerve in Parliament, that, to prevent bloodſhed among the voters, the military was obliged to interfere.

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1713. Proceedings in Ireland.

UPON the meeting of the Iriſh Parliament, the Commons inſtituted an inquiry into the cauſes of the late riots. They reviſed the proceedings of the Court of Queen's Bench againſt the authors and printers of treaſonable publications. They voted a book, intitled, Memoirs of the Chevalier de St George, a ſcandalous and ſeditious libel, the deſign of which was to impeach her Majeſty's title to the Crown, and the ſucceſſion of the Houſe of Hanover. They reſolved, That Sir Conſtantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, had acted contrary to his duty and the Proteſtant intereſt, by repreſenting the author as an object of mercy; and that the Lord Chancellor, by declaring his opinion in a ſpeech to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Dublin, had prejudiced a cauſe depending in a court of law. They therefore agreed, that an addreſs ſhould be preſented to her Majeſty, praying, that ſhe would remove Sir Conſtantine Phipps from his office of Lord High Chancellor, for the peace and ſafety of her Proteſtant ſubjects in Ireland. The Lord Chancellor, ſupported

ported by a majority in the Houſe of Peers, obtained from their Houſe votes diametrically oppoſite to thoſe of the Commons. The Lord Lieutenant, after great difficulty, having ſucceeded to carry the national buſineſs through this tumultuous Parliament, prorogued it, and returned to Great Britain *.

Obſervations.

FOR ſome time paſt I have deſignedly avoided diſtinguiſhing the two great parties dividing the nation, by any other appellations than thoſe of the Court and Oppoſition parties: for, ſeeing a ſet of men, ſwayed by ſelf-intereſt, under the guidance of Marlborough, Godolphin, Somers, Cowper, Halifax, Wharton, and others, adopting, with the name of Whigs, meaſures evidently tending to ruin the country; maintaining principles throughout hoſtile to the conſtitution; bent on proſecuting a deſtructive war, portending ſlavery to the land; raſhly planning ſchemes for the introduction of foreign troops into the kingdom,

* Iriſh Journals.

and

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and internally fomenting civil diſcord; I am free to confeſs, that I have been ſtaggered, and have found the greateſt repugnance to call ſuch men *Whigs*. When, on the contrary, I have viewed, oppoſed to them, a party denominated *Tories*, aſſiſting the arduous labours of Lord Oxford, in reſtoring peace and harmony among a diſtracted and impoveriſhed people; in invigorating and extending the Britiſh commerce, reduced to the laſt gaſp; in ſtrengthening, and, with all his might, defending the conſtitution, in church and ſtate; removing, as far as his abilities could reach, all obſtacles to the ſucceſſion of the Houſe of Hanover; and, in deſpite of every diſcouragement, nobly and uniformly perſiſting to the laſt in the glorious undertaking; I have been tempted to conclude, that former hiſtorians had fallen into the error of giving theſe parties improper deſignations. Be it as it may, I ſhall in the ſequel, for the ſake of perſpicuity, reſtore to each his common appellation. Let it not however be ſurmiſed, that this nation is indebted to either of the two for the eſtabliſhment of the

the Houſe of Brunſwick on the throne of theſe realms. That bliſsful event, like the Revolution, under the ſignal agency of Providence, has been accompliſhed by the joint efforts of the virtuous and honourable of both parties re-united.

Intrigues of Marlborough and Bolingbroke.

WHILE the three kingdoms exhibited ſcenes of confuſion and uproar, ſcarce before paralleled in times of profound peace, Bolingbroke, in purſuance of his arrangements with Marlborough, diſtracted the Queen's mind with apprehenſions of Lord Oxford's deſigns of throwing off all dependence upon her, and making her ſubſervient to his own ambitious views. He repreſented him as vain of applauſe and popularity, ſupercilious and haughty, as well as deficient at bottom in affection for herſelf and family. He accuſed him of tampering with the Whigs, and of having taken meaſures to render himſelf formidable, by an alliance with their party. He ſeized every opportunity for caſting the moſt unfavourable light on all his ſteps, and all his actions. Anne, conſtitutionally timid, ſtill ſmarting with

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with the recollection of recent ſufferings, ſhewed herſelf but too prone to give ear to Bolingbroke's inſinuations, powerfully aſſiſted, as he was, by Lady Maſham; who, reſenting ſome neglect of Lord Oxford, was underhand ſupporting his rival. Matters having been brought to this criſis, the return of the Duke of Marlborough was mentioned. At the ſound of this name, the Queen manifeſted ſuch ſigns of terror, that it was judged highly unadviſable to proſecute the object of his recall, much leſs his reinſtatement in full authority, without effecting which, Bolingbroke could not expect the promiſed countenance from him or his party, according to the terms ſpecifically ſtipulated between them. On the other hand, the Secretary was far from poſſeſſing intrinſic weight ſufficient to ſeize, unaided, upon the reins of government, after having ſtruck them out of the hands of his firſt patron *. Bolingbroke imparted the unwelcome tidings of this failure in his firſt

* From the Stuart Papers, publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

attempt,

attempt, to his correſpondent at Antwerp, whoſe diſappointment proved the ſeverer, as he was eagerly panting to graſp at power. Although Marlborough, on this occaſion, experienced infinite mortification, yet he ſuffered not his ardour to abate at the obſtacles ſtarting up in his ſight. He recommended a cloſer and better followed attack. He pointed out the places in which the Queen was moſt aſſailable. He ſuggeſted the expedient of exciting Lady Maſham, at convenient moments, to recall the memory of an unfortunate departed parent, and of now and then lamenting the fate of a forſaken brother. On the ſcore of religious piety, he conſidered her as moſt vulnerable. Heaven's judgements, he thought, might with ſucceſs be dexterouſly introduced; but above all things, ſhe was to be driven to the laſt extremity. Thus aſſaulted, he was certain ſhe would be brought to relent. Having once ſhaken her reſolution, Bolingbroke was inſtructed to paint, in the ſtrongeſt colours, the intractable pertinacy of Lord Oxford, then contraſt it with the

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unabated zeal of a diſcarded and abſent ſervant *.

Marlborough's renewed ſolicitations to the Pretender.

MARLBOROUGH, by theſe means, aſſured that he could not fail in reaſſuming the direction of the realm, and ſtill bent on having a king of his own making, in deſpite of the repulſe given to his late advances, diſpatched one of his own confidential retainers to Bar-le-Duc. He intruſted him with letters to the Pretender and the Duke of Berwick, containing the moſt ſolemn proteſtations of his unſhaken and decided attachment to the cauſe of the Prince, whom he aſſured, with an emphatic oath, "that he would rather cut off his own "right hand, than oppoſe the views he had "on the throne. He declared, That, pro- "vided he himſelf could be rendered ſe- "cure, he would not heſitate a moment "to uſe all his credit, both privately and "publicly, for his ſervice. The Duke of "Berwick, he ſaid, was inſtructed more

* From original Papers, already publiſhed, by Mr Macpherſon.

"largely

" largely on the ſubject; and he had rea-
" ſon to hope for an anſwer ſuitable to his
" ſincerity and zeal *."

THESE letters were accompanied with others to the exiled Queen and to the Ducheſs of Berwick. No promiſes were ſpared, no means left untried, to obtain the moſt implicit confidence in his devotion. Although favourable anſwers were returned to theſe letters, yet the excluded Prince could not help betraying, in his expreſſions, a degree of caution, and even diſtruſt, towards a man who had ſo often deceived him. Conſiſtent in duplicity, at the ſame inſtant that he was pledging himſelf to uphold the Pretender, Marlborough neglected not his uſual aſſurances to the Elector. To him he indiſcriminately depicted Anne's entire miniſtry as ſo irrecoverably tainted with Jacobitiſm, that nothing but an immediate invaſion of the kingdom could defeat the projects of Lord Oxford, and re-

* From the Stuart Papers, publiſhed alſo by Mr Macpherſon.

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ſcue the throne *. There is in this conduct a degree of abſurd profligacy not to be accounted for, otherwiſe than by taking it for granted, that in ſtimulating the preſumptive heir of the crown to hoſtilities, he wickedly aimed at rendering him odious to a people whom he was deſtined to govern. Fortunately this Prince would not be perſuaded to acquire a diadem at ſo iniquitous a price.

The Queen's illneſs. 1714.

TOWARDS the end of December, the Queen, whoſe mind had for ſome time been on the rack, was attacked at Windſor with an inflammatory fever. Fears and hopes by turns agitated the two parties, as well as the nation at large. A rumour having maliciouſly been ſpread, that a ſquadron was fitting up in the ports of France, to convoy fourteen thouſand troops into the kingdom, the public funds inſtantly fell; and ſo great was the run on the Bank, that the directors applied to the treaſurer for his

* Taken from the Hanover Papers, publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

aſſiſtance,

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assistance. Fruitless proved all endeavours to dispel the general panic. It subsided not until the 1st of February, when the Queen signed a letter to the Lord Mayor of London, declaring, "that now she was recovered from her late indisposition, she would return to the usual place of her residence, and open the Parliament on the 16th of February. She sent this intimation to her loving subjects of the city of London, to the intent that all of them, in their several stations, might discountenance the malicious reports spread by evil-minded persons, to the prejudice of credit, and the imminent hazard of the public peace and tranquillity*." Rejoicings immediately took place of despondence. The late alarms appeared the more groundless, as it was found that neither preparations had been made in any of the French ports, nor that the Pretender had stirred from Bar-le-Duc. Resigned to his fate, and entirely trusting to a change in the opinions of the people in his favour,

* Gazettes of that time.

the

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the excluded Prince paſſed his days in obſcurity, under the protection of the Duke of Lorraine. He ſtill adhered to his tenets; but, as has been obſerved, his whole houſehold, and even his chaplain, were of the Church of England. The reaſons adduced for not changing his religion, were, the odium of the meaſure, and the riſk of thereby depriving himſelf of an aſylum in Europe. But he uſed to obſerve, "That, "ſhould he be permitted to return to Great "Britain, he would have no objection to "hear ſuch arguments as might induce "him to deviate from his religious opi-"nions." He even uſed to urge, "That it "would be for the intereſt of Britain, to "have a Prince on the throne, whoſe re-"ligion would leſſen the power which the "conſtitution had placed in his hands, as "he would relinquiſh, during his own life, "the prerogative of nominating biſhops, "and appointing to livings. He likewiſe "expreſſed himſelf ſatisfied that the Teſts, "as far as they related to Popery, ſhould "remain unaltered, and to have no other "ſervants but ſuch as ſhould be of the Pro-

"teſtant

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" teſtant perſuaſion, againſt which he pro-
" feſſed to have no ſort of prejudice *."
Such a king would have proved a precious acquiſition for Marlborough. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that he ſo aſſiduouſly perſiſted in moleſting him with fulſome proteſtations, which were neither credited nor well received; eſpecially as the Pretender abſolutely declined all correſpondence, except ſuch as conveyed the ſtate of opinions †."

Promotions in ſome of the departments of adminiſtration.

THE Earl of Oxford, whoſe principles had ever been thoſe of Whigiſm, had, after the diſſolution of Parliament, made ſome advances to the leaders of that party, which had not been received ſo favourably as he confidently expected. He was of neceſſity thrown back on the Tories. By deaths, diſmiſſions, or removals, ſeveral important places had fallen vacant. The Earl of Mar was appointed third Secretary of State; the Earl of Dartmouth was promoted to

* Circumſtances all confirmed by Mr Macpherſon.

† Fact alſo pointedly aſcertained by Mr Macpherſon.

the

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the Privy Seal; Mr Bromley, Speaker of the late Houſe of Commons, was made one of her Majeſty's principal Secretaries; Sir William Wyndham became Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the room of Mr Benſon, created Lord Bingley; and Lord Lanſdowne was named Treaſurer of the Houſehold.

Meeting of parliament.

HER Majeſty's health not being ſufficiently reſtored, Parliament, on the 15th of February, was opened by commiſſion, and Sir Thomas Hanmer choſen Speaker. The miniſter became ſoon ſenſible of the pernicious effects of the ſecret influence operating againſt him. Bolingbroke was at little pains to conceal his enmity, or diſguiſe his endeavours to ſupplant him in the Queen's favour. To diſtreſs him in Parliament, he perſuaded ſeveral Peers, who had heretofore ſupported his meaſures, to join the Oppoſition. Even Mr Bromley and Sir William Wyndham, whom the Treaſurer had lately introduced into the cabinet, took part againſt him, and followed the ſtandard of his rival. He ſeriouſly began

began to entertain thoughts of retiring, and was only with-held from quitting the helm, by the conſideration of the miſchiefs which were likely to attend his retreat. He ſent his relation, Mr Harley, to the court of Hanover, with aſſurances of his undeviating zeal for the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, and of his particular attachment to the Electoral family; he found, to his great grief, that his enemies had been beforehand with him, and had buſily miſrepreſented his conduct. Finding that his ſincerity was doubted, he ſhielded himſelf with the conſciouſneſs of his own rectitude; and relying on the ultimate juſtice to which he ſtood intitled, he determined manfully to brave the utmoſt efforts of malignity.

The Queen's ſpeech.

In the midſt of rejoicings on account of the Queen's recovery, arrived the ratifications of the treaty of commerce between Great Britain and Spain. The joy expreſſed by the people was increaſed by the proclamation of peace between the two kingdoms. On the 2d of March, her Majeſty, followed by the loudeſt acclamations, was

carried to the Houſe of Lords in a ſedan chair. She ſignified to both Houſes, "that "ſhe had obtained an honourable and advantageous peace for her people, and for "the greateſt part of her allies; and that "ſhe hoped her interpoſition might prove "effectual to complete the ſettlement of "Europe. She animadverted ſeverely on "thoſe who inſinuated that the ſucceſſion "in the Houſe of Hanover was in danger "under her government. She was aſſured, "that thoſe who endeavoured to diſtract "the minds of the people with imaginary "dangers, could only mean to diſturb the "public tranquillity. She ſaid, that after "all ſhe had done to ſecure the religion "and liberties of her people, ſhe could not "mention ſuch proceedings, without ſome "degree of warmth; and ſhe hoped her "Parliament would agree with her, that "all attempts to weaken her authority, or "render the poſſeſſion of the crown uneaſy "to her, could never be the proper means "to ſtrengthen the Proteſtant ſucceſſion *."

* Journals.

AF-

AFFECTIONATE and dutiful addreſſes of thanks were returned for this ſpeech by both Houſes. The Commons having voted the ſupplies, ordered a bill to be brought in for ſecuring the freedom of Parliament, by limiting the number of officers in the Houſe of Commons. It having paſſed both Houſes without difficulty, the complaint againſt libels was next taken into conſideration. Mr Richard Steele, a member of the Houſe, well known in the republic of letters, having acknowledged himſelf the author of publications called the Engliſhman and the Criſis, was expelled the Houſe, and theſe productions were condemned as ſcandalous and ſeditious libels *.

Removal of the Duke of Argyle and other officers from their military employments.

WHILE the Commons were purſuing theſe ſteps, the nation was ſuddenly alarmed with the removal of the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Stair, and other officers of rank, attached to the Houſe of Hanover, from all their military employments. It being known that Lord Oxford had loſt the

* Journals.

Queen's confidence, it was not ſuppoſed that he had adviſed an arbitrary meaſure, pregnant with ſiniſtrous prognoſtics of the reſtoration of the Pretender; which this new modelling of the army evidently tended to facilitate, while it obſtructed the lawful ſucceſſion of the Houſe of Hanover. The bold ſtride, with its conſequent evil tendency, was univerſally attributed to the Viſcount Bolingbroke, who prided himſelf in ſhewing that he had acquired a complete aſcendency over the Queen's mind. The Whigs ſaw, and heſitated not to declare, that no hopes remained for the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, except in the death of the Queen or that of the Pretender. Lord Oxford unheſitatingly joined in the iſſue, and ſeparated from thoſe who harboured a different opinion.

THE Lords, upon this alarm, reſolved to take the ſtate of the nation into their ſerious conſideration. The Earls of Wharton, Nottingham, Sunderland, and other Peers having repreſented, in the moſt forcible terms, the danger threatening the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, it was moved, that an addreſs

addreſs ſhould be preſented to her Majeſty, to ſolicit the ſpeedy removal of the Pretender from Lorraine. The Earl of Oxford ſtrengthened this reſolution, by moving for leave to bring in a bill for the further ſecurity of the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, by making it high treaſon to bring any foreign troops into the kingdom. It were to be wiſhed, that theſe laudable efforts for the ſecurity of religion, had not inhumanly been carried the length of deeply wounding the feelings of a diſtreſſed and enfeebled Princeſs, on the brink of her grave, already ſufficiently afflicted with mental and bodily pains. But, to the reſolve for an addreſs to remove the Pretender, it was offered as an amendment, " That her Majeſty be re-" queſted to ſet a price upon her own bro-" ther's head!" To the immortal honour of Lord North and Grey, be it ſpecially recorded, that his Lordſhip ſtood up, and with generous indignation, forcibly pointed out the barbarity of the propoſal. He was magnanimouſly ſeconded by Lord Trevor. Both theſe venerable Peers reprobated the monſtrous idea of ſetting a price on any man's

man's head. They ſet forth, that a legal encouragement of aſſaſſination was repugnant to common humanity; and both declared, that ſhould a caſe of this nature be ever brought before the courts in which they preſided, they would think themſelves bound in honour and conſcience, to condemn ſuch an action as murder. Theſe arguments prevailed on the mover to withdraw a motion, which ſhould not have ſtained this page, had it not appeared to me ſtrongly characteriſtic of the ſpirit prevailing in thoſe times *."

Writ demanded for the Electoral Prince.

THESE proceedings were followed by the demand of a writ for the Electoral Prince, to ſit in the Houſe of Peers as Duke of Cambridge. Baron Schutz, the envoy from Hanover, was ſpirited up by the Whigs, to wait on the Chancellor, and make a formal demand of this writ for the Prince. Startled at the unexpected requeſt, the Chancellor declined returning an anſwer till he had conſulted the Queen, and immediately

* Journals of the Lords, and debates.

haſtened

haſtened to the palace. This extraordinary requiſition was conſidered as an additional inſult. A cabinet council was ſuddenly ſummoned. The Queen declared, that ſhe would rather ſuffer the laſt extremities, than permit a Prince of the Electoral family to reſide in Great Britain during her life. The Chancellor was directed to ſignify to the Hanoverian envoy, that, as her Majeſty had received no previous intimation of his demand from the court whom he repreſented, ſhe could not be perſuaded that he acted up to his inſtructions. As a further mark of her diſpleaſure, ſhe ordered the maſter of her ceremonies to forbid the Baron to appear any more at her court. The Queen at the ſame time, wrote to the Princeſs Sophia, to the Elector and the Electoral Prince, and obſerved to them, that the tranquillity of her dominions, and the ſucceſſion in their line, would be imminently endangered, if the Prince perſiſted in his deſign of coming over to Great Britain. To account for his not complying with the preſſing requeſt of thoſe friends who urged the Electoral Prince to come over,

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over, the Queen's letters were confidentially tranſmitted to them, which they ſoon after indecently printed and publiſhed. This new outrage ſo incenſed her Majeſty, that, by her expreſs command, the publiſher was inſtantly taken into cuſtody.

Perplexities of Lord Oxford.

DREADING the effects of a miſunderſtanding between the two courts, Lord Oxford wrote to the Elector on the 25th of April. "He made the moſt unequivocal profeſſions of his zeal for the preſumptive heirs of the Crown. He reaſſured his Highneſs, that he ſtood entirely and unalterably devoted to the intereſts of the Houſe of Hanover. He proteſted, that he held himſelf bound to them, not only by his oaths, but by the moſt profound reſpect for their many virtues. He adduced, that he might without vanity ſay, that he had the chief hand in ſettling their ſucceſſion to the Crown. He urged, that Lady Maſham was ſtrenuous for the Proteſtant line, and that he was ſure the Queen inclined to the ſame ſide. He

"therefore

" therefore gave it as his opinion, that no-
" thing could endanger the ſucceſſion, but
" the ſending over any Prince of the Elec-
" toral family without her Majeſty's con-
" ſent *."

UNFORTUNATELY for injured worth, the Treaſurer's profeſſions were not conſidered as ſincere; not even when, on the 4th of May following, finding himſelf painfully compelled to alter his opinion, he again wrote, " that he never thought matters
" would have been puſhed ſo far; that he
" was apprehenſive of his own ſpeedy diſ-
" grace; that he had been deſired to en-
" ter into the views of the Pretender; and
" that he found the Queen more determi-
" ned than ever to ſtrengthen the intereſts
" of her brother, and to ſecure the throne
" for him †."

THE Emperor, having ſingly carried on the war with France during another campaign, in which his troops had been de- Peace of Raſtadt.

* Hanover papers 1714. † Ibid.

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feated, and ſeveral of his ſtrong places taken, had at length been forced to open new conferences at Raſtadt, which, happily for the cauſe of ſuffering humanity, terminated this year in a peace. This ill-adviſed Prince conſented, in this new treaty, to reſtore the Italian territories, of which their Princes had unjuſtly been deſpoiled. He re-eſtabliſhed the Electors of Bavaria and Cologne in their reſpective dominions and dignities; and, to ſhew his reſentment to the Britiſh Court, ſet on foot a new treaty with the States-General for another barrier in the Netherlands, the negotiations of which he transferred from the Hague to Vienna.

Proclamation againſt the Pretender.

HAD not the Queen been ſufficiently irritated at Lord Oxford for taking an overt part againſt her, and ſtill heſitated to throw herſelf in the arms of his rival, ſhe muſt have been driven to that reſolution, by his ſubſequent manly firmneſs in thwarting her views in favour of her brother. Through the vigilance of Lord Wharton, information was obtained, that ſome Iriſh officers were

were inliſting men for the Pretender's ſervice. They were ſeized under a warrant from the Queen's Bench. The Treaſurer, acting at this time in uniſon with the Whigs, laid this diſcovery before the cabinet-council. With the aſſiſtance of the Duke of Shrewſbury, he marſhalled up force ſufficient to carry a reſolution, by a majority of voices, for iſſuing a proclamation, promiſing a reward of L. 5000 for apprehending the Pretender, whenever he ſhould attempt to land in Great Britain. The Commons preſented an addreſs of thanks upon this occaſion; and in the effuſion of their zeal to protect the act of ſettlement, aſſured her Majeſty, "That "they would chearfully aid and aſſiſt her, "by granting the ſum of L. 100,000 as a "further reward to any perſon who ſhould "perform ſo great a ſervice to her Majeſty "and her kingdoms *."

WITH a view to preſerve the ſemblance of a friendly intercourſe with the Electoral

* Commons Journals, and Minutes of Council.

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1714 Appointment of Lord Clarendon ambaſſador to Hanover.

Family, the Earl of Clarendon had been ſent ambaſſador from the Queen to the Court of Hanover. Baron Bothmar was, in conſequence, ordered back to Great Britain to replace Baron Schutz, who, on being forbidden the Court, had withdrawn himſelf. Bothmar had moreover formally to announce the death of the Princeſs Sophia, who, in her eighty-fourth year, had, on the 28th of May, ſuddenly expired at Hanover. This Princeſs was the fourth and youngeſt daughter of Frederick Elector Palatine, King of Bohemia, and of Eliſabeth daughter of James I. Nature had endowed her with an excellent underſtanding, which had been highly cultivated. In her great age, ſhe had, to the laſt, preſerved her faculties unimpaired, enjoying the juſt veneration, not only of her illuſtrious progeny, but of all thoſe who had the happineſs to approach her. The Britiſh Court appeared in mourning at her death, and the Elector was prayed for by name in the liturgy of the Church of England.

On the 2d of July, the Lords took into

to

1714. Conſideration of the Spaniſh treaty of commerce.

to their conſideration the treaty of commerce with Spain. A great number of merchants were examined at the bar of the Houſe. They declared, that unleſs the explanations of the third, fifth, and eighth articles, as made at Madrid after the treaty was ſigned, were reſcinded, they could not carry on their commerce without loſing 25 *per cent.* After a long debate, the Houſe reſolved to addreſs the Queen, for a communication of all the papers relating to the negotiation of the treaty of commerce with Spain. To this addreſs her Majeſty replied, "That under-"ſtanding the three explanatory articles "of the treaty were not detrimental to the "trade of her ſubjects, ſhe had conſented "to their being ratified with the treaty *." The Earl of Wharton upon this repreſented to the Houſe, "That if ſo little regard "was ſhewn to the addreſſes of this au-"guſt aſſembly to the Sovereign, they "had no buſineſs in this Houſe †." He therefore moved for a remonſtrance, to

* Lords Journals. † Debates and Journals.

lay

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lay before her Majeſty "the inſuperable "difficulties that attended the Spaniſh "trade on the footing of the late treaty." The Houſe agreed to this motion, as well as to another, "That the Houſe ſhould "inſiſt on her Majeſty's naming the per-"ſons who had adviſed her to ratify the "three explanatory articles *."

Parliament prorogued.

HARASSED and perplexed by a Parliament who had given her ſo many cauſes of vexation, in an impaired ſtate of health threatening an approaching diſſolution, and with projects of magnitude revolving in her mind, the Queen unexpectedly made her appearance in the Houſe of Peers on the 9th of July, and, with a ſpeech from the throne, cloſed this ſeſſion of Parliament. After having aſſured both Houſes, that her chief concern was to preſerve the Proteſtant religion, the liberty of her ſubjects, and to ſecure the tranquillity of her kingdoms, ſhe concluded in theſe words: "But I

* Lords Journals.

"muſt

"must tell you plainly, that theſe deſire-
"able ends never can be obtained, unleſs
"you bring the ſame diſpoſitions on your
"parts; unleſs all groundleſs jealouſies,
"which create and foment diviſions a-
"mong you, be laid aſide; and unleſs
"you ſhow the ſame regard for my juſt
"prerogative and for the honour of my
"government, as I have always expreſſed
"for the rights of my people *." This ſpeech ended, her Majeſty ordered the Chancellor to prorogue the Parliament to the 10th of Auguſt. Various were the conjectures on a prorogation which came ſo totally unexpected. The Queen's abſolute ſilence on the ſubject of the Houſe of Hanover portended that, in the interior of the cabinet, meaſures were purſuing inimical to their intereſts. The open enmity between Lord Oxford and Lord Bolingbroke; the Queen's eſtrangement from the Treaſurer and partiality for the Secretary; the undeviating rectitude of the one, and the diſſolute abilities of the other, filled the

* Journals, 9th of July.

mind

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mind of every friend of his country with the moſt gloomy apprehenſions. Meanwhile the Duke of Marlborough had left Antwerp, and was come to Oſtend, where he waited for a favourable wind to embark for Britain. The adherents of the Pretender appeared full of exultation. The ambaſſador from Sweden had even been heard expreſſing a wiſh that the Pretender were already arrived *. Nothing ſeemed to obſtruct the Lord Treaſurer's fall but a wind, which, happily for Britain, prevented the arrival of any veſſel from the continent. In this ſtate of ominous ſuſpenſe, upon Lord Oxford entering the drawing-room on the 27th of July, he was deprived of the Treaſurer's ſtaff. During three days, anarchy and confuſion reigned in the cabinet. Obſtacles impeded the adoption of a new ſyſtem, which alone the expected preſence of the Duke of Marlborough could remove. The conſtant buſtle of a crowded and anxious Court, the hurry

Diſmiſſion of Lord Oxford.

* From the Hanover Papers, publiſhed by Mr Macpherſon.

and

and agitation in which the Queen's ſpirits were kept, the exceſſive fatigue of attending, till an advanced hour of the night, a long and diſtracted cabinet-council, in which nothing could finally be determined, ſo exhauſted the Queen in her enfeebled ſituation, that, on coming out of the council-chamber, ſhe declared, "that "ſhe could not ſurvive it." In the night of the 29th of July, ſhe was ſeized with a lethargic diſorder, out of which the utmoſt medical efforts failed to awaken her. The dangerous ſymptoms increaſed ſo rapidly, that, on the next day, her phyſicians deſpaired of her life. In this emergency, two illuſtrious patriots, the Duke of Somerſet and the Duke of Argyle, repaired to Kenſington. Both unſummoned entered the council-chamber. At their appearance, ſome of the Queen's ſervants betrayed a degree of ſurpriſe. But the Duke of Shrewſbury riſing, returned his cordial thanks to theſe two noblemen, for their ſeaſonable aſſiſtance at ſo critical a juncture, and invited them to take their places in council. The phyſicians having been called

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in, and declaring that her Majeſty was ſtill ſenſible, it was inſtantaneouſly reſolved to recommend the Duke of Shrewſbury, as the fitteſt perſon to fill the office of Lord Treaſurer. This opinion being intimated to the Queen, ſhe declared that they could not have choſen a perſon whom ſhe liked better. Accordingly, holding the Lord Treaſurer's ſtaff, ſhe placed it in the hands of the Duke of Shrewſbury, uttering theſe remarkable words, "*Uſe it, my Lord, for the* "*good of my people.*" The Duke offered to return the Chamberlain's ſtaff; but ſhe deſired he would retain both. The Dukes of Somerſet and Argyle next propoſed, that all privy counſellors in and about London ſhould indiſcriminately be ſummoned to give their attendance; to which the Duke of Shrewſbury having aſſented, notices were accordingly ſent forth. The council thus reinforced, iſſued inſtantaneous orders for the ſecurity of the kingdom. Four regiments of horſe and dragoons quartered in the neighbouring counties were directed, with all ſpeed, to march towards the capital. Seven out of the ten battalions remaining in

in the Netherlands, were commanded to embark for Great Britain, without loſs of time. An embargo was laid upon the ſhipping; and all the men of war that could the ſooneſt be got ready for ſervice, were ordered to be equipped. A ſpecial meſſenger was diſpatched to Hanover to ſignify to the Elector, that her Majeſty's life was deſpaired of. His Highneſs was made acquainted with the meaſures adopted for the internal ſecurity of the realm. He was intreated to repair to Holland, with all convenient diſpatch, and was appriſed that a Britiſh ſquadron ſhould be waiting in readineſs to convoy him over. The heralds at arms were ordered to hold themſelves prepared, with a troop of horſeguards, to proclaim the new King, the moment that the throne ſhould become vacant.

The Queen's death.

THE Queen continued, with ſhort intervals, in a ſtate of lethargic inſenſibility, until the morning of the 1ſt day of Auguſt, when ſhe expired, in the fiftieth year of her age, and in the thirteenth of her

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reign. No ſooner had ſhe reſigned her breath than the council met. The Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the Baron de Kreyenberg, produced three inſtruments, in which the Elector of Hanover had nominated the perſons to be added as Lords Juſtices, to the ſeven great officers of the realm. The Regency being thus formed, appointed the celebrated Mr Addiſon their ſecretary, to whom they ordered, that all letters and packets directed to the Secretary of State for the foreign department ſhould be delivered. Such was the juſt ſuſpicion entertained of Lord Bolingbroke! Theſe neceſſary precautions taken, the heralds were commanded to proclaim his Majeſty George I. King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland.

Arrival of the Duke of Marlborough.

THE Duke of Marlborough, whom a contrary wind, or rather the protecting hand of Providence, had detained during one-and-twenty days at Oſtend, reached London in the evening of the 1ſt of Auguſt. He was, at his arrival, ſtunned with the peoples tranſports at the acceſſion of George

George I. and their miraculous deliverance from all apprehenſions of future inroads upon their glorious conſtitution. Deciding at once on the part which in theſe circumſtances it ſuited him to act, he carefully repreſſed his infelt vexation; then, aſſuming a look of exultation, he made boaſt, that he had haſtened over to aſſiſt in upholding rights, which, from the cloſe texture of his plots, he without doubt darkly deſigned to have invaded.

Character of Queen Anne.

ALTHOUGH the character of Queen Anne be ſo ſtamped in her actions, that from them it might eaſily be deduced; yet, that I be not deemed wanting in the reſpect due to her memory, I will delineate her perſon, and endeavour to convey a juſt idea of her talents and mental diſpoſition. In ſtature, ſhe was of the middle ſize, and well ſhaped. Her hair was dark; her complexion ſanguine; her face more round than oval; her aſpect benign, but not majeſtic; her voice melodious and clear. She was affable and engaging in her manners. She was neither deficient in natural abilities, nor in acquired

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acquired accompliſhments. She underſtood muſic, loved painting, and had a taſte for works of genius. She was liberal without profuſion, and charitable without oſtentation. She was a pattern of conjugal fidelity and affection, a tender mother, a warm friend, and an indulgent miſtreſs. Her attachment to the Church of England flowed more from conviction than prepoſſeſſion. Unaffectedly pious, juſt, and compaſſionate, ſhe felt for her people the genial fondneſs of a parent. Yet, with all theſe virtues, her natural timidity, her indeciſion, her propenſity to lean on favourites, and, above all, the peculiar difficulty of her ſituation, filled her own days with ſorrow, and were near precipitating her country in irretrievable miſery. Upon the whole, though ſhe cannot be placed among the greateſt, yet ſhe certainly deſerves to be ranked among the beſt Sovereigns who have ever governed a free people. She ſtands eminently intitled to our grateful veneration, and has a peculiar claim to our commiſerating affection.

THE END.